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Of the Church · By the Church · For the Church

Luther League Review

The Official Organ of the Luther League of America

CONVENTIONS

REPORTED IN THIS NUMBER:

Luther League of New York State
ALBANY, July 7-9

Luther League of Ohio
MANSFIELD, June 24-25

Luther League of South Dakota
VERMILLION, May 3-5

TO BE HELD THIS MONTH AND NEXT:

Luther League of Iowa
MARSHALLTOWN, July 14-16

Luther League of Indiana
MULBERRY, July 21-22

Luther League of Illinois
CHICAGO, August 10

Luther League of Pennsylvania
ERIE, August 10-11

Luther League of America
CHICAGO, August 11, 12 and 13

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LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW

P. O. Box 876 New York City

Of the Church—By the Church—For the Church

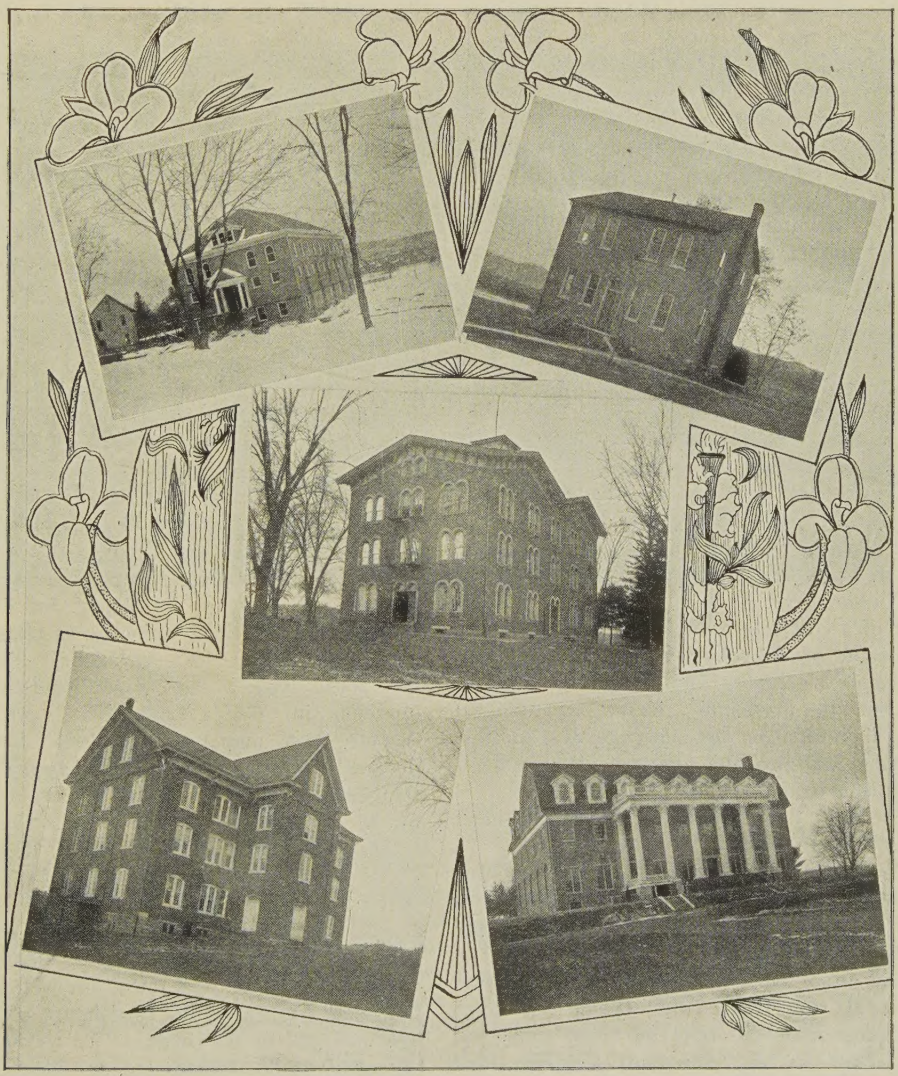
Luther League Review

Susquehanna University

BY REV. F. P. MANHART, D. D.

ON June 10 Susquehanna University at Selinsgrove, Pa., celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.

Its founder was one of the strong and influential men of the Lutheran Church in America, the Rev. Benjamin Kurtz, D. D., LL. D. The



BUILDINGS OF SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY.

General Synod was organized in Dr. Kurtz's church in Hagerstown, Md., in 1820. He was for thirty years the editor of the Lutheran Observer, when it was the only strong English Lutheran paper in America.

At Dr. Kurtz's request the Maryland Synod, in 1856, appointed a board of ten trustees to found a missionary institute. Of the trustees, the venerable Rev. Dr. J. G. Butler, of Washington City, is the sole surviving trustee.

The school was opened in Selinsgrove, Pa., in 1858. Dr. Kurtz was its superintendent or president until his death in December, 1865. The Rev. Dr. Henry Ziegler was professor of theology from 1858 to 1881. The charge to these two able men of the Church at their installation was delivered by the Rev. S. Sprecher, D. D., LL. D., then the distinguished president of Wittenberg College and a spiritual son of Dr. Kurtz. Dr. Ziegler succeeded Dr. Kurtz as superintendent or president, and served as such till 1881.

The Rev. Peter Born, D. D., was the principal of the classical department of the institute from 1859 to 1881, when he became superintendent and theological professor. He was superintendent until 1893, and professor until his death in 1899.

The Rev. J. B. Focht, D. D., who had been assistant principal for four years was principal in 1881-82.

The Rev. J. R. Dimm, D. D., was principal of the classical department from 1882 to 1894.

The Rev. P. F. Manhart was superintendent in 1893-94.

In 1894 the work of the classical department, which from the beginning had been carried to the junior year of a full college, was made that of a complete college. In that year, also, the name of the school was changed to Susquehanna University, and the title of superintendent to president. Rev. Mr. Manhart was, therefore, the last superintendent of Missionary Institute and the first President of Susquehanna University.

The Rev. J. R. Dimm, D. D., was president from 1895 to 1900.

The Rev. Charles T. Aikens, D. D., has been president since 1905, the brief administrations of Rev. Drs. C. W. Heisler, G. W. Enders and J. B. Focht filling up the interval.

The first building—Selinsgrove Hall—was occupied in 1859; the second—Gustavus Adolphus Hall—in 1895; the third—Sell Science Hall—in 1897; the fourth—Seibert Hall—in 1903, and the fifth—the Alumni Gymnasium—in 1904. Besides some other minor buildings, the University has also the Leevars Dining Hall and its own heat and laundry plants. It has an excellent athletic ground known as the Warner Field.

The University has five fully organized departments, viz., Seminary of Theology, College of Liberal Arts, Conservatory of Music, Commercial Department and Preparatory School. There is special work in elocution and expression and in art. The University is open during four terms each year. The summer term for this year will begin on June 15 and the fall term on September 21. The work of the summer term includes that of all the departments save the theological. It includes special work in teachers' courses, and may count toward a degree in the college or conservatory. The beautiful location and cooling breezes make Susquehanna a pleasant place in summer time.

Among the professors who have served the longest have been P. Born, D. D. (forty years), J. R. Dimm, D. D. (twenty-four years), T. C. Houtz, Sc. D. (twenty-three years), J. I. Woodruff, Litt. D. (thirteen years), G. E. Fisher, Ph. D. (ten years) and H. E. Allison (nine years). Prof. E. E. Sheldon is the director of the conservatory; F. P. Manhart, D. D., the senior of the theological school; E. M. Brungart, A. M., is principal of the preparatory, and E. P. Sones, A. M., Mas. Accts., is principal of the school of business.

William Noetting, A. M., Pd. D., who was a professor from 1858 to 1865, has been professor of pedagogy since 1901.

The faculty numbers thirty professors and instructors. Many of its alumni and former students have attained eminence as clergymen and in other of life's vocations. Two of its sons have been superintendents of missions in Africa and Asia, etc., etc. Among the numerous speakers for the different exercises of the anniversary were the Revs. Jer. Zimmerman, D. D., LL. D., S. A. Ort, D. D., LL. D., E. A. Sharretts, D. D., J. G. Butler, D. D., LL. D., J. R. Dimm, D. D., John Weidley, D. D., and Hon. F. A. Kurtz, of Maryland, a grandson of Dr. B. Kurtz, the founder, Hon. B. K. Focht, a namesake of the founder and a Member of Congress, Hon. M. T. Creasy, the well known "Farmer" Creasy, of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and S. W. Owen, D. D., an alumnus, president of its trustees and president of the General Synod.

Luther League of New York State

Fifteenth Annual Convention at Albany, July 7-9

BY MISS FLORENCE R. STERN

THE fifteenth annual convention of the New York State Luther League was held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Albany, Rev. Oscar Krauch, pastor, July 7, 8, 9.

The convention was opened at 2:30 p. m. on Tuesday by the president, Mr. W. H. Rector, of Binghamton. Rev. John Kopp, of Portchester, conducted the devotional services. The roll was called, fifty-two delegates being present. All the districts were represented. General Secretary Rev. Luther M. Kuhns was elected advisory delegate. The minutes of the last convention, held at Syracuse, October 29, 30 and 31, were presented and adopted.

The reports of officers and committees followed. President Rector submitted his report. This was followed by the reading of the treasurer's report by Mr. Fred Ihlo, of New York City. The report of Miss Florence E. Fellows, of New York City, State Secretary, showed that there are 101 Luther Leagues in the State, with a membership of 6,200. The treasurer's report showed an income of $214.04 and $140.61 disbursements, leaving a balance of $73.43. He also stated that the sum of $10,095.83 had been raised by the League last year for benevolences. The report of the corresponding secretary, D. W. P. Meyerholz, of Brooklyn, was presented; that of the executive committee by Chairman Eugene A. Hieber, of Utica; the extension work by Chairman J. M. Reynolds, of Valatie, and the press committee, of which L. D. Mayer, of Albany, is chairman. President Rector presented his annual address.

The afternoon session was closed with prayer and benediction by Rev. A. F. Walz, of Troy.

Rev. E. F. Keever, of Utica, was appointed to report for the Lutheran; Rev. U. H. Graves, of Schenectady, for the Observer; Mr. J. M. Reynolds, of Valatie, for the Lutheran World; Rev. Frederick Hartwick for the Seminary Monthly, and Miss Florence R. Stern, of Buffalo, was appointed to write the report of the convention for the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW. Mr. Archibald Coney, of Canajoharie, was appointed to receive subscriptions for the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW.

The second session was held Tuesday evening, July 7, at 7:30 o'clock. There was a large gathering of delegates and visitors. Rev. Oscar Krauch conducted the vesper service. The choir sang an anthem, "Send Out Thy Light," by Gounod. Mr. Otto Mende rendered a baritone solo and an offertory solo. Greet-

DELEGATES TO THE NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION.

ings and welcome to the church was extended by the pastor, Rev. Krauch. Corporation Counsel Arthur L. Andrews gave the visitors a hearty welcome to the city in behalf of Mayor Gaus, who was unable to be present.

President Rector gave a fitting response. He spoke of the Binghamton mayor, who was an upright man in public office and who set a good example to the young people.

The convention sermon was delivered by Rev. Edwin F. Keever, of Utica. The subject of his sermon was "Honor God." He called attention to the young men and women leaving schools and colleges who are entering the threshold of life. He spoke of the many who were unable to have this training, but who had to enter upon life's activities under less favorable circumstances than their brothers and sisters. He said that although this is true, yet they have the same opportunity of serving and honoring God, and if they did so their life would be a success. "The success of the human soul," said Rev. Keever, "is in overcoming sin and temptation. You are indebted to God for what you are and what you ought to be. He has honor as well as labor for you. God does not segregate His people in the world. They are only known by what they do. Man is not recognized as a Christian because he sings hymns or gives money, but by his life.

"Your banner, like our national flag, represents the freedom of the individual. Luther taught that law belongs to the individual. It is the Germanic idea that it is a part of the individual. The Roman idea is that it is a part of the land, an institution. Stand by these principles that the League stands for, and you will honor God and serve your fellow man." He asked, "Are you a vessel of gold and silver or of earth and wood? Prepare yourself as a vessel of honor."

The Albania Quartet sang several selections. The benediction was pronounced by the pastor of the church, Rev. Krauch. The church was very prettily decorated with palms, ferns, flowers and flags.

The third session began promptly at 9 o'clock with devotional exercises conducted by Rev. F. Bresenski, of Ellenville. This was followed by the reading of the minutes of the Tuesday afternoon session, which were accepted.

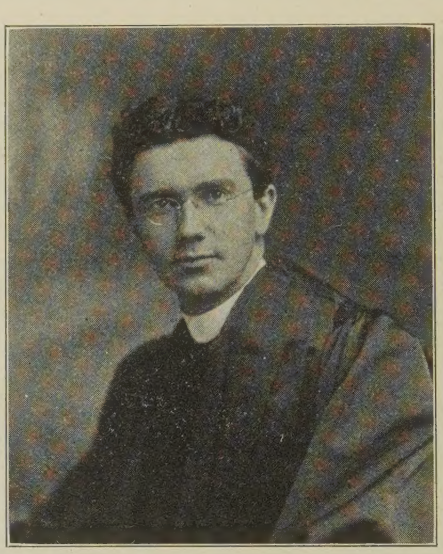
The following committees were appointed:

On Nominations: Mr. A. A. Coney, chairman, Mohawk Valley; F. W. Schwartz, A. and Sus. district; H. Rechtsteiner, Buffalo; Rev. E. E. Fischer, Brooklyn; George Synder, Rhinebeck; Charles Foster, Rochester; A. Giltner, Syracuse; I. S. Runyon, New York City.

Committee on Resolutions: Rev. John Kopp, chairman; Paul B. Mattice, George M. Hoeckhs, C. Fritschler, Mrs. Pardee, Rev. E. L. Dubbelbis, Mr. Weniger, Miss Augusta Merschroth.

Committee on Audits: E. A. Hieber, Utica, chairman; Charles Huter, Brooklyn; Mr. Ball, Berne.

The Luther League of Canada sent greetings to the convention. A paper on "The Achievements of the Past—Intensively," was



REV. O. W. KRAUCH,
Pastor of St. John's Church.

read by Rev. W. H. Stutts, of Manorton, N. Y. In part he said:

Achievements recorded by the historian are based upon external evidence growing out of causes to effects and may be received as accurate. Achievements relating to the inner man are not so easily recorded, inasmuch as they are not always externally manifested. Hence the past intensively of the League may be approximated only. We have been endowed with the faculty of perception and we are privileged to use it in judging trees by their fruits, and motives by their actions.

Lest this privilege be abused we are told, "Judge not lest ye be judged." Human judgment at best is imperfect even after a careful examination has been made, so in speaking of the League and its past we prejudge rather than make positive declaration. This is especially true when we consider the age of the League and when we comprehend the statement made by another that "history before it is accepted as such must have time to ripen." We therefore are limited in the statement of conclusions regarding the past intensively of the League.

Some facts, however, may be related which have been recorded in a bold and vigorous hand and which show the tendency to more loyalty to the Church, to a

better understanding of Lutheranism and thus to a broader Christianity.

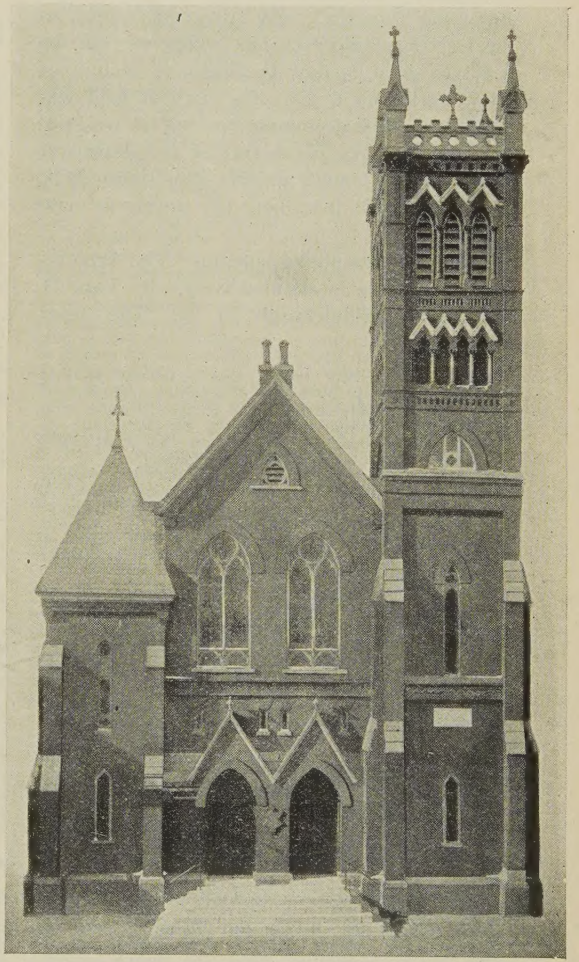
Not many years ago a Young People's Society was unknown as such in the Lutheran Church. Many of us here today can recall the time when the question asked of us, "Are you a Lutheran?" that the answer in the affirmative was given in fear and trembling. The young Lutherans were ashamed to acknowledge, when in the presence of young people of other churches, their lineage, though the bluest of ecclesiastical blood flowed through their veins and though they could boast a heritage as grand and glorious as comprehended in the Saviour's promises, as well as boast of an ancestry as old as Christianity itself. This shame and fear grew out of the fact that they did not know who and what they were. Such lack of knowledge engendered to a very large degree a lack of loyalty to the great Apostolic Church, while such lack of loyalty did subtract vast numbers from the Lutheran household of faith, while in that subtraction they were adding the best membership to other churches. This condition was brought about by misdirected zeal on the part of our fathers in Israel. It is with inexpressible sorrow that we acknowledge and confess the indifference of many pastors and laymen to the needs of the newly confirmed young men and women of the Church. * * *

The League has been the greatest of all the active forces in the Church to awaken her from her indifference and senseless opposition by accentuating the declaration that if young Lutherans were so desirable for the building up of other congregations they were all the more desirable for the building up of their own. The League gave the newly confirmed something to do by giving them something to learn. This new position awakened in the young a consciousness of the glorious history and doctrines of the Mother Church of Protestantism, and augmented the catechetical instruction by opening for them avenues of practical application. Thus the more they knew their Church the more they loved her, and the more they loved her the greater their loyalty, so that today, as is evidenced in this convention, the young Lutheran is not only not ashamed of his Lutheranism, but rejoices with a glad heart when an opportunity is offered to speak of his Church, her great work and her wonderful possibilities. It is said that knowledge is power and no application of that statement is truer than when applied to the young Lutheran of today. He emulates the great reformer in knowing himself and is therefore able to give a reason to everyone that asks him of the hope that is in him. This knowledge engenders a loyalty for all that his Church means to the world, because it enables him to look beyond all boundaries of nation, language, or synod. The League has not only incited to a better knowedge and a greater loyalty, but to a higher spiritual life by making the Word of practical use and by showing it to be "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto out pathway." With Luther and the Church Fathers, the Leaguer holds the Word above all mandates of councils and formulas and confessions. With the Word occupying the first place in his heart as a rule and a guide the forces of the Church at large have been augmented and the spirit of unity intensified, which recognizes every branch of the spiritual household as included in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. We may also say that the League is indirectly responsible for the missionary activity of the Church today. The League has developed a better and a broader type of Lutheranism, and consequently a better type of Christianity since Lutheranism is synonymous with Christianity. This broader knowledge has made the practical worker and has enabled him to adapt himself, like the sailor, to all conditions of storm and of calm, compelled at times to tack in adverse winds, but ever headed for the haven of rest through salvation in Christ. His larger knowledge enables him to affiliate with all people and with all creeds, but always with a consciousness of his individuality. We are speaking of a child of tender age. Yet with a health and a vigor that presages to man of power and of glory born in the Church, the League is of the Church, and, like the supporters of the hands of the lawgiver, renders assistance to the Church, in proclaiming salvation through Christ, living up to this humanitarianism by ever saying:

"If I can live to make some pale face brighter,
Or to give a second lustre to some tear-dimmed eye,
Or e'en impart one throb of comfort to some aching heart,
Or cheer some way-worn soul in passing by.
If I can lend a strong hand to the fallen,
Or defend the right against a single envious strain,
My life, though bare perhaps
Of much that seemeth dear and fair;
To us on earth will not have been in vain.
The purest joy most near to heaven far from earth's alloy
Is bidding clouds and rain give way to sun and shine,
And 'twill be well if on that day of days the angels of me tell,
(He) She did the best for one of Thine."

Discussion followed.

One speaker spoke of the necessity in church work of following educational principles. She said that finding the point of contact is important in teaching. Beginning with the known and proceeding to the unknown is applicable in church work as well as in educational work. She maintained that interpreting new ideas in terms of the child's past experience is the fundamental principle upon which education is based.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ALBANY,
Where Convention Was Held.

She laid great stress upon the fact that methods in school and church should be similar. The point of contact is very necessary in order to sustain the interest of the child and stimulate the child's mental activity. Our Master, she said, used this principle in his teachings while on earth.

Rev. Keever, of Utica, indorsed these remarks. He spoke of St. Paul's addresses and of his letter to Philemon as illustrations of the foregoing remarks. Rev. Brezinsky spoke of the lost opportunity of the Lutherans. In the heart of what is now the business section of New York City a gift of a piece of land was offered to this denomination, but it was not accepted, as they considered it too expensive to fence in. Owing to this shortsightedness, the Lutherans lost both in influence and wealth.

Then was presented a paper on "The Achievements of the Past—Extensively," by Paul B. Mattice, of Middleburgh, N. Y. The paper follows:

In physics we are taught that extension is that property of a body by which it occupies a portion of space. Every body must have length, breadth and thickness and possess the property of extension. It will be our purpose to speak upon the length and breadth of the Luther League movement.

Beginning with the formation of the first Luther League at St. Peter's German Evangelical Lutheran Church, of New York, the organization of the Leagues of the great metropolis on up through the various steps leading to the final completion of the State organization, May 30, 1893, the movement has been ever widening its field of influence.

Among the most prominent of the leaders in the formative days of the State organization we find the names of Moldehnke, Wedekind, Remensnyder, Buermeyer, Haas, Eilert, Dinkey and the lamented Close, of this city. All honor to the minds of those who conceived the idea of banding together the young Lutherans of our State, for they, like the architect, beheld the stately edifice rise in proportions beautiful and grand long prior to the laying of the foundation stones.

Indifference, neglect, conflicts of languages and opinions, but at last the Church of our State, realizing her opportunity, but deploring the advantages already lost, recommended at a meeting of delegates from central societies in November, 1889, that a State organization be perfected. This was the first definite step that led to our Luther League of New York State.

It was the goodness of the Lord who created that He might redeem.

Builded upon the rock of the unaltered Augsburg Confession, the League became not an outside organization, but a co-operative, inside the church society, whose purpose is well expressed in the motto: "Of the Church, by the Church, for the Church." The League became at once as broad as the Church herself. The League has taught our young men and women to cease to emphasize differences, but to magnify what is common, exemplifying that Lutheran doctrine: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

New York must ever occupy a prominent position in the Luther League of America because of the high character of our leaders.

The men and women who have held official positions in the State League have been reliable, efficient, active and progressive in all their services.

What an inspiration our Luther League has furnished the Leaguers of every State in the Union by the power and example of our young people of the various synods working together in peace and harmony for the upbuilding of the great Mother Church

Upon this, the fifteenth anniversary of New York State, no excuses or apologies for the organization need be presented; her flourishing condition justifies her existence.

Is not the fraternal spirit that has grown up in the Lutheran Church entirely a result of Luther League work?

As our pastors and laymen of different Lutheran synods sit in District, State and National assemblies of the Luther League, this fraternal spirit is fostered.

We believe the growth of this spirit in recent years to be one of the most important of all of the achievements of the League, whether we shall ultimately become one body or not.

The League has been a fruit-bearing tree; she has transformed a dormant and, to some extent, ignorant membership into an active and intelligent body.

She has spread the missionary spirit of our Church and made her members "lively stones" in that spiritual house of Christ, broadening their knowledge of the Church's faith, her history, her present-day needs and the lives of her heroes. It stands to the lasting credit of the Luther Leaguers of New York that our State organization was a leader in that movement that resulted in the organization of the Luther League of America and has furnished a practical Christian training to thousands of her members.

A membership of 6,134 Luther Leaguers and 1,071 Juniors, making a total membership of 7,205, will be reported to this convention. The increase in membership during the last year has been about 10 per cent. of the total membership each year.

What has been the measure of results to the Church since 1893, when those eighty individual and six district associations became the first State organization? What has been the sum total of their zeal and example in awakening the Lutheran Church to her opportunity? What has been the value of the League movement to our Church in our Empire State.

The complete answer cannot be given, but is witnessed in part by lives dedicated to Christ; in a renewed devotion to His Church and an increased membership in the League itself.

Take the remarkable development of our Church in Greater New York. In 1855 we numbered seven churches. Today we possess 123.

How much did the active work of the League contribute to this result? I will not attempt the answer, but it certainly has been a factor.

The broadening and expanding of the Luther League has resulted in many changes.

Our young people are not alone more regular in church attendance, but are a working unit in the congregation. The Reading courses, the Hymnal, the REVIEW and our excellent Topics have placed them upon a broader plane.

Among the many results of Luther League training, the most substantial and lasting in value is the educational work she has undertaken. From the age of understanding until he passes to that undiscovered bourne, no question so largely confronts the human race as the matter of education. The child is trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; he is taught the principles of the word of God, and must know of life and redemption.

The Church demands of the League that she furnish a trained, intelligent laity for church workers.

What has been the result of this campaign of education?

The congregation and church have been upbuilded; this stream of new blood has awakened the Church until today the call of the twentieth century comes with special reference to the Lutheran Church.

Luther made a bold stand in his day for order and righteousness in government.

We are hearing a great deal in these days about civic duties and our relation to the State.

What about this educational work of the League that has broadened our young men's political ideas and developed sturdy, Christian citizens?

These results of necessity are slow in realization, for the civic conscience is not of instantaneous growth, but develops slowly under various conditions to inspire the noblest ideals of political conduct.

The League and the Church must forever remind men of the character of the obligation that they as individuals and the Church as an organization owes to the State. Citizenship is a sacred thing!

Not until we cast our ballots as thoughtfully, as conscientiously, as seriously and as prayerfully as we ap-

proach the table of the holy communion have we discharged our duty as Luther Leaguers to Christ, the League and the Church. If we as Christians are not giving that same serious consideration to our civic duties that we do to our Church obligations, then the vision that St. Augustine saw descending upon the Roman Empire will be repeated.

That kingdom pre-eminently spiritual, of which Christ spoke, unfolding and extending itself in the hearts of men, will of necessity, as we view it, tend to create finer ideals of earthly kingdoms and governments aud our relationship to the same.

Through all the years that the Luther League of New York State has been making history, she has been pointing to noble ideals, devising larger and better means of Christian endeavor and patiently training her young people through the presence of a purifying Christ toward that bright vision of citizenship in heaven.

This was followed by a spirited discussion.

A question box, one of the interesting features, was conducted by Rev. John E. Hemdel, president of the Luther League of New Jersey.

Some of the questions discussed and the answers approved by the conductor are as follows:

1. How can we interest the young men in League work?

Answer.—By the study of biography and history; young people study these branches at school and show great interest in them.

2. What is the best method for holding older as well as younger members?

Answer.—I would encourage the young people to appeal to the older ones for aid in their work.

3. Should there be Junior Societies, and why?

Answer.—Yes, because it puts children actively at work.

4. How to make a devotional meeting interesting and profitable.

Answer.—To have these *two objects* in view: To render devotion; stimulate thought in religious subjects.

5. How to present the topics in an interesting way so that there will be spontaneity on the part of most of the members.

Answer.—By adopting educational methods so far as practicable.

The hour being late, the answering of the remainder of the questions was deferred until the afternoon session.

The morning session closed with benediction and prayer.

The afternoon session consisted of a short devotional service, followed by the answering of the remainder of the questions.

Miss Mary D. St. John, of Centre Brunswick, read a paper on "The Present, Our Weakness." It follows:

What vivid antitheses life presents! Weakness: Strength! Victory: Defeat! The Sweet: The Bitter!

Up there the bitter will have melted away into everlasting sweetness; weakness will have vanished into eternal strength; and the last trace of defeat will have been obliterated by endless victory.

Not so here below! In every phase, in every form, in every condition of life we see, side by side, weakness and strength, victory and defeat. It must needs be so, for what is strength but conquered weakness? Where a victory without defeat?

We many times hear it said that our best friends are those who point out to us our faults, our weaknesses. We often resent it; only, however, when we fail to realize the kindness which prompted it, and the good to us which might result from it.

We are to have a little heart-to-heart talk, as it were. We are to uncover our past mistakes, for we cannot remedy our present weakness if we know not the cause for it, and where find the cause but in the past? If what we are reaping at present is weakness, then what we sowed in the past was weakness; for "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Luther Leaguers, our future reaping depends upon our present sowing. May we be careful what we now are sowing. Let us thoroughly investigate the condition of the soil; if it be barren, let us enrich it; if the present crop be weeds, let us not merely cut them off, but let us uproot them, and after we have uprooted them, let us not cast them upon the ground to again be nourished by the soil, but let us burn them.

We need not be discouraged over our weakness; for if we were entirely strong, what need of further striving? If we had no weakness to overcome, we would not value our strength! Had we no high ideals to which to aspire what need of serving, aye, what need of living? "Although no one can hope to reach perfection in this world, it is best to always aim at it. They who aim at it, and persevere, will come much nearer to it than those whose laziness and despondency make them give it up as unattainable."

A small boy was asked why he was late to Sunday school. He replied, "I started late." Luther Leaguer, in the vernacular of the small boy, we started late, and that is the first point we wish to make. You see we are going back to the beginning, to the very core of our weakness.

Where were our undisciplined, unorganized forces for three hundred years and more? Echo answers, Where? What more courageous "Call to Arms" could we have asked for than those famous words of our noble hero, "Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me." Did the martial strains of "Ein feste Burg" fail to arouse the sleeping soldiers in their tents? We must needs deplore our long-continued lethargy, our long-drawn-out Rip Van Winkle sleep. The night cometh, but it is now day; we do not want to be groping about any longer in somnambulism. Let us hope we have slept enough for all time, and that now we are awake and ready to answer to the call of our Captain, "the King of Glory, the Lord mighty in battle."

That hammer which drove the nails into those ninety-five theses and fastened them to the door of the Old Castle Church at Wittenberg, on that memorable 31st day of October, 1517, had a vital message, which rang out in tones loud and clear: Awake! Arise! To arms! Organize!

We cannot measure what success, what strength might have been ours today had we been organized, and had we been perfecting our organization for those three hundred years. We are weak in the second place because as an organization we are too young to be counted strong. Twenty years ago marks our birth and twenty-one is the legal age when we become responsible. And yet, the very fact of our youth, laden as it is with manifold possibilities, should be an incentive to spur us on to definite and immediate action. We shall never again be so susceptible to impressions as we are now. We shall never be so plastic. If we will, we may form evil habits; if we will, we may form good habits. It shall never again be so easy for us as potters to press out the sharp corners and distorted angles of the clay, as it were, and mold and fashion them into a perfectly rounded symmetrical figure. No better time will ever be afforded us to improve upon our weaknesses and failures. We are receiving training now which shall be a vital part of us forever, and upon which shall depend largely the making or unmaking of posterity. Let us all be Timothys and listen to St. Paul's wise counsel: "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned, and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them, and that from a child

thou has known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Our weakness is due, in the third place, to the latent power of the youth of our nation. Statistics tell us that one million young men arrive at majority each year, and that means four million every Presidential election. We can safely count upon the same number of young women. What fresh, new life would be infused, what a mighty impetus would be given the cause of Christ, if, each year—think of it—these two million young people would become identified with, and active workers in the Church of the Living God. The dormant influences for good are incalculable. They are, nevertheless, using their energies; some are climbing the ladder of success, and are reaching the highest rungs of social, financial and literary honor. Some are sinking lower and lower into the depths of degradation and sin. But the highest and lowest are alike failures if Jesus Christ be not in the heart and life.

In the fourth and last place, we must say with Sir Launfal: "The Grail in my castle here is found!" We have been over land and sea in search of our weakness, we have visited many climes, but we are forced to return home to find that we, as members of this noble organization, our beloved Luther League, contribute the largest share of weakness. Luther Leaguers, there is a Philistine in our camp, a Goliath! Have you not seen him? Upon his head is a brass helmet of indifference and lack of interest; he is armed with a coat of a lack of piety and deep consecration; between his shoulders is a brass target of an uneducated, uninformed and ecclesiastically idle laity; upon his legs are brass greaves of a lack of enthusiasm and co-operation; in his hand he carries a sword of worldly wisdom; his spear is a lack of unity and loyalty; his shield is a compromise between the world and the Church.

Listen! He is standing and crying to the army of Luther Leaguers: "Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? Am not I a Philistine, a giant? Am not I your weakness personified? And ye servants to the Lord Jesus Christ! Choose you men and let them come down to me. If they be able to fight with me and subdue me, then will I be their servant; but if I prevail against them and subdue them, then shall they be my servants and serve me!"

He is drawing near morning and evening, challenging us to the battle. How can we equip ourselves for the conflict? The Lord saveth not with the carnal sword and spear and shield. We must lay aside our worldly weapons; yet our case is not hopeless; the Captain of our Salvation has placed the right weapons within our reach. Let us go to the brook, the fountain of living waters, and there, as did David of old, let us choose five smooth stones. Let our hearts be the shepherds' flag. Our sling shall be the Word of God, the Holy Bible. As Christian soldiers we can hurl no weapon effectually unless it emanate from God's Holy Word. Let our motto, "Of the Church, by the Church and for the Church" be inscribed in letters of gold upon our ensign, that the world may know we go forth in His name.

Let the first smooth stone be Faith. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Faith has the power to make whole and to save; it produces peace, joy, hope; it purifies and sanctifies. "By grace are ye saved through faith."

Let the second smooth stone be Love. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." And this commandment have we from Him, that he who loveth God love his brother also. We must have faith in God, we must love God and our fellowman, before we can go out against this giant, Our Weakness.

Let the third smooth stone be Prayer. "Men ought always to pray." "Pray without ceasing." We should often withdraw into the secret place, and there commune with God. It is our only way of talking with God. We can not conceive of our having faith in Him and loving Him without our wishing to talk with Him. Would our earthly friends think we loved them much if we said not a single word to them for even one whole day? We must be ever praying Luther Leaguers, ever praying Christians, if we would make more of prayer in our lives and in our meetings.

Let the fourth smooth stone be Preparation. The Luther League is an admirable training school. In order to be prepared for service we must be informed. First of all, we must know the Word of God. Let us study it with faith, with love, with prayer. Let us say with the Psalmist, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." It is God's only way of talking to us; the only chance He has to tell us of the plan of salvation. How can we tell others if we learn it not first of all from Him? Let us often give Him a hearing.

Our reading courses furnish an excellent way to gain information. If thoroughly and conscientiously studied, our Topics prepare us from a spiritual, a doctrinal, an historical and a missionary standpoint. Our LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW provides us with indispensable knowledge of what we are doing at home and abroad.

Let the fifth smooth stone be Service. If we have faith, love, prayer, preparation, we are ready for service. In serving we must guard against two things:

1. Doing the work of the Lord negligently. A woe is pronounced upon those who do the work of the Lord negligently.

2. Doing the work of the Lord professionally. We often speak and pray and work in our meetings because we feel it our duty. We go to our meetings many times, very much like the business man goes to his place of business. We are at our posts because it is expected of us to be there.

Let our service be rather:

1. A service of *enthusiasm*, a willingness to serve in season and out of season, an untiring activity.

2. A service of *interest*. May we be so interested in our Luther League, so mindful of its needs and possibilities, that we shall never speak disparagingly of it.

Mark Twain was in attendance at a social function. He saw a little girl making faces and otherwise causing consternation to her guardians. He said to her: "Never do anything naughty when anyone is looking." Luther Leaguers, let us never speak disparagingly of our society when anyone is listening.

3. A service of co-operation; there can be no service without co-operation. To have co-operation, a standing together, there must be oneness of aim and purpose. There can be no co-operation without attendance. We can not work together unless we meet together. A lack of attendance is one of the most lamentable and discouraging features of our weakness; empty pews will never contribute to successful co-operation. We need to be persistent, untiring, undaunted workers; we must be thoroughly convinced of the joy and blessedness of Church work, a work which has not an iota of compulsion, but one which is characterized rather by its voluntary and free-will nature. Hear the gentle pleading: "Whosoever will," "If any man," "Blessed are those who," "He that believeth on me." Luther Leaguers, let us realize as never before, the blessed privilege of co-operation.

4. A Service of Sacrifice.—We must be willing to give our time, our talents, our means to the service of our Master. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you." We must deny ourselves the gilded, hollow pleasures of the world, for righteousness hath no fellowship with unrighteousness; light hath no communion with darkness.

5. A Service of Soul Winning.—Soul winning should be the climax of all service. What need of service if we have no sheaves, no brothers' souls to lay at the feet of the Master. We were told in the recently held State Sunday School Convention that statistics affirm that it took four teachers and officers twelve months to win one soul in the Sunday School. May such a record never be laid at our door, Luther Leaguers! This world is in need of the Christ, in need of salvation. Christ alone can meet this need, and He is a Saviour absolutely to be depended upon.

May we love to tell the story because we know it's true, and may we tell it often.

We have been to the brook; we have gathered our weapons. It is now left with us to meet the challenge of this enemy. We no longer have an alternative; we must come face to face with our Weakness. The question at issue is: *Are we able to fight with him and subdue him, and make him our servant, or will he fight with us and subdue us, and make us his servants?* It must be the one or the other.

Indifference, a lack of interest, a lack of information will never kill indifference, a lack of interest, a lack of information; a lack of piety and deep consecration will never kill a lack of piety and deep consecration; a lack of unity, loyalty, enthusiasm, co-

operation will never kill a lack of unity, loyalty, enthusiasm and co-operation. Our weakness has never been so strong as it is at present, and if allowed to exist it will be stronger yet in the future; so *now* is the time to conquer it. We shall never even enter the battle if we allow our weapons to remain in the shepherd's bag. We must hurl them if we would have them directed against the enemy. Let us hasten to run toward the enemy!

This giant is boasting of his weapons. "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace." But when a stronger than he shall come upon him and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armor wherein he trusteth, and divideth his spoils."

With the Word of God as our sling, with our weapons of Faith, Love, Prayer, Preparation and a Service which is one of Enthusiasm, Interest, Co-operation, Sacrifice and Soul Winning, we are stronger, we will prevail over this giant, Our Weakness, and the very weapons in which he so glories will be as with the Philistine of old, his undoing.

The present is the thought of this afternoon session. Luther Leaguers, the present alone is ours. The very fact that we started late, the very fact that we were slow in beginning our work demands double-quick action at present. Even though we are too young as an organization to be counted strong, the present is the time to build fortifications which shall strengthen the future. If we, as members of this organization, would have our light so shine before men, that others who are not members should wish to become members, it behooves us to blot out our present Weakness, and to do it *at present.*

Let us be ever growing, ever faithful, ever marching on, Luther Leaguers, so that when all is over we are able to say with St. Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

After the singing of the hymn, "O, Come, Loud Anthems Let Us Sing," Miss Florence R. Stern, of Buffalo, read a paper as follows on the subject, "The Present, Our Strength":

The word strength is derived from the Saxon stem, meaning strong. It stands for firmness, solidity, power and force. It is the quality of building, uniting, or securing.

The word strength may be applied to the spiritual, intellectual or social side of League work.

Let us look at the spiritual strength of the League. The Augsburg Confession is the rock upon which the League is built. Justification by faith, as taught by St. Paul, is the fundamental principle in Lutheran theology. Luther laid great stress upon this. "St. James' interpretation of a living faith is a necessary corollary to this grand old principle." Section 2 of the Constitution gives the object of the Luther League as follows: "To stimulate the various Young People's Societies to greater activity in their respective churches; to assist in keeping the young people confirmed in the Church true to their confirmation vows; to secure the active co-operation and assistance of the young people to their pastors in maintaining and advancing their local church work." The greatest factor, the one for which the League stands, the highest aim of the League is to produce in each member fidelity to his own church by means of quickening in him a clearer consciousness of Christian faith. "As a man sows, so shall he reap" is no less true of a League than of any of its members. "By their fruits ye shall know them" is sound philosophy.

The strength of our society in general lies in the power and influence of the clergy over the laity. The pastors lay the foundation by keeping before us as a guide the Sacred Word and the Articles of Faith. The spiritual side of the District, State and National Conventions is quite apparent. Luther said: "Put soul into your work and joy and health will be yours." Is not this emphatically true?

The intellectual strength of the League at present is quite visible to even a half interested observer. In the first place, the present-day education demands and expects large intellectual returns from those who have had educational advantages.

Junior League work, when properly carried on, demands the spontaneous expression of the soul and mind after the child has been deeply impressed. This is in strict accordance with educational principles, and results in the establishment of self-confidence in the child. What an advantage this is to a youth. When he becomes an adult he is not afraid to express himself at a meeting. So one can readily see that a Junior League Society is a training school for the Senior League, and the Senior League is, in turn, a training school for church membership. The Junior League is the largest resource of a Senior League. What strength can be derived from such a resource, if it is of the proper kind, with the right talent properly directed!

Our committee which selected the topics kept variety in mind. Some of the topics are practical, some missionary, some historical, some doctrinal, and some biographical. Instruction and education are often used synonymously. Instruction comes from the word instruo, meaning to tell or inform. Education comes from the Latin word educo, meaning to lead out. Instruction means filling with knowledge, but education means the development of the mental faculties. So a child who is well instructed is not necessarily well educated. Child study is of vital importance to the parent, teacher and pastor. The child is studied with regard to his capabilities at different ages. The result is that only such subject matter is presented to the child as can be assimilated by him. The child is also studied so as to find the way in which his mind works. Form of presentation, interesting if possible, is kept in view when teaching a subject. Topical form of teaching is considered by educators to be productive of original language on the part of the pupils. It also gives the child wide scope when expressing his thoughts. He is not restricted to one set idea, as the asking of questions is apt to do. Therefore, the Junior League Topics are considered good, for they follow out this educational principle.

It is utterly impossible to carry on church work in exactly the same way that it was done fifty or a hundred years ago. Conditions are different now. Public opinion has changed regarding many things. Intellectual and independent thought are common.

The strength of the Luther League today is largely due to the fact that it has the power to adapt itself to present conditions. We must keep pace with educational methods and tactfully use them where practicable or we may fail in many noble aims.

The literature work is well outlined in a course which cannot help but be of the greatest value if studied in topical form.

The social strength resulting from our League work is quite beneficial. What a noble feeling of brotherhood and sympathy there exists in one aim common to all! It brings out the best that is in us and tends to broaden us in many ways. The District, State and National Conventions show a marked spirit of charity toward one another. A deep feeling of harmony, unity and inspiration seems to be in the very atmosphere at our conventions. A spirit of friendly intercourse and co-operation between the delegates is quite apparent. Does not this show that the members are being stimulated to greater activity through the medium of conventions?

The Luther League is of great benefit to the Church in assisting in missionary work, both at home and in foreign countries.

We must either go forward or go backward—we cannot *stand still.* Which are we doing, my friends? We are progressing slowly but surely. Slow and steady wins the race. Let us therefore continue this good work at a steady pace, watching, praying and working in our small corners "ere the night cometh when no man can work."

Mr. I. S. Runyon, of New York City, demonstrated "A Model Luther League Service." The topic was Christian Simplicity. Those who participated were: Mrs. A. R. Pardee, discussing "Simplicity in Prayer"; Miss Susie Grauer, speaking of "Simplicity in Dress;" Mr. Charles Rector, on "Simplicity in Faith"; Miss Florence R. Stern, on the sub topic, "What Is Christian Simplicity?"; Mr. Charles Foster, on "How Is Christian Simplicity Manifested?"; and Miss Henrietta Ranges, on "What of Its Value and Beauty?"

Mr. A. A. Coney, of Canajoharie, offered prayer. The Rev. G. G. Whitbeck, of Valatie, read the closing service.

At the fifth session two addresses were made, the first "Luther League Work," by Rev. Luther M. Kuhns. He emphasized the two cardinal principles of the League, namely, Federation and Co-operation.

Among other things he said: "There is nothing higher, nothing nobler, nothing grander, than individual service for Jesus Christ." He spoke of the federation and co-operation that is needed in the Church. He also spoke of the necessity of the deeper spiritual life and the more efficient service in God's Kingdom.

"Carnegie carves his name in stone for libraries; Rockefeller gives millions for education; Morgan gives largely to the study of disease. What can I do for my Church?"

"The purpose of the Luther League is to train you to be masters in the way of doing things for your Church.

After the singing of the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," Rev. William Freas, Jr., of New York City, delivered an address on "The Unchanging Christ."

He said, "Go to the source of all good and come into the presence of the unchanging Christ in order to get enthusiasm. We can depend upon Him, for He is unchanging. The changes that come into life are for the better. The changing conditions by which we are surrounded form the background of the Luther League."

After the offertory, a soprano solo, "My Lord and My Redeemer," by Dudley Buck, was rendered by Mrs. Christian T. Martin. This was followed by the Luther League Rally Hymn. The service was closed with prayer and benediction by Rev. John Heindel.

The sixth session was opened Thursday morning at 9 o'clock by a short devotional service.

The committee on nominations submitted their report as follows:

President, W. H. Rector, Binghamton; recording secretary, Frank Yenney, Syracuse; corresponding secretary, D. W. P. Meyerholz, Brooklyn; statistical secretary, Paul Mattice, Middleburgh; treasurer, Fred Ihlo, New York; archivarus, E. L. Tucker, Syracuse; trustees, William Eck, Albany; Rev. E. F. Keever, Utica; James M. Reynolds, Valatie.

A unanimous ballot was cast for the election of the above.

Remarks were made by each of the elected officers.

A vote of thanks and appreciation was extended to Miss Florence Fellows (of New York City) for her efficient service as statistical secretary.

The greetings of Mr. William C. Stoever, president of the Luther League of America, were read by Rev. Luther M. Kuhns. In the greetings, the national president urged upon the delegates their attendance at the national convention at Chicago next month.

Rev. John Kopp, chairman of the committee on resolutions, read the report.

The resolutions were voted upon separately, and carried, and then adopted as a whole.

We heartily indorse the recommendation of the president that the local Leagues at their earliest convenience adopt the 10 cents per capita apportionment for the General Secretary's Salary Fund.

That the local Press Committees send items direct to the REVIEW and not to the District Press Committee chairmen as heretofore.

That greater efforts be made to enlarge the subscription list of the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, and that members be urged to adopt the League literature for their work.

That the delegation from New York State to the National Luther League Convention be instructed to insist upon the simplification of the Luther League Topics.

That the delegates to this convention urge the secretaries of the local Leagues to be more prompt in their replies to the letters of the State Statistical Secretary.

That our delegates to the convention of the Luther League of America in Chicago in August, 1908, be instructed to favor an extension and amplification of the Luther League Handbook to include more specific and particular information for League workers, to favor its introduction into the Reading Course and steps to secure its wider circulation, and that they be instructed to favor the revision of the Reading Course in the direction of greater simplicity and practical value to the workers.

That we congratulate the Luther League of Canada upon her entry into the great Lutheran family, and bid her Godspeed.

That the Luther League of Grace Church, Rochester, be admitted into direct membership in the Luther League of New York State, pending the reorganization of the Rochester District League.

That in future the Extension Committee should be composed of a chairman, and the chairmen of the various District Extension Committees, ex-officio.

That the various District Leagues be urged to make an annual appropriation according to their ability for the use of their Extension Committees.

Also there were adopted resolutions favoring greater efforts for the success of Junior League work and urging the use of the JUNIOR LEAGUE TOPICS; expressing the thanks of the convention to the Executive Committee for the excellent program present; to the President, Statistical Secretary and all the State League officers and committees for their faithful efforts and contributions to the excellent results of the year; to General Secretary Rev. Luther M. Kuhns for his presence and valuable assistance in this convention; to the congregation, Luther League, and pastor of St. John's Church for their hospitality, and to the organist, choir and soloists for their music; to the speakers and all who participated in the program.

The last resolution follows: Upon this, our fifteenth anniversary, we feel that our Father in Heaven has led us most wonderfully, and that we, His children, offer humble thanks for His guidance, and pray for the continuance of His gracious favor.

The State president, Mr. W. H. Rector, appointed the following delegates to the National Luther League Convention at Chicago: E. F. Eilert, New York; I. S. Runyon, New York; J. F. Dinkey, Rochester; James M. Reynolds, Valatie; William Eck, Albany; Christian Grauer, Buffalo; Miss Florence Fellows, New York; Rev. U. H. Graves, Schenectady; W. L. Bradt, Binghamton; W. H. Rector, Binghamton. Their alternates are: E. A. Hieber, Utica; F. Ihlo, New York; G. R. Snyder, Kingston; A. A. Coney, Canajoharie; Rev. Dr. Wolford, Middleburgh; F. M. Yenney, Syracuse; D. W. P. Meyerholz, Brooklyn, and C. G. Foster, Rochester.

The following standing committees were appointed: Executive committee: E. A. Hieber, Utica; J. M. Reynolds, Valatie; W. L. Bradt, Binghamton, W. T. Hinrich, Buffalo; Rev. U. H. Graves, Schenectady; J. Lieberman, Albany; I. S. Runyon, New York.

Extension committee: J. M. Reynolds, Valatie; L. W. Smith, Albany; C. L. W. Fritschler, Brooklyn; George J. Flierl, Buffalo; E. A. Hieber, Utica; F. Ihlo, New York; C. G. Foster, Rochester; Rev. P. W. Koller, Hudson; Edward W. Taylor, Syracuse.

Literature committee: I. S. Runyon, New York; P. B. Mattice, Middleburgh; Rev. E. E. Fischer, Brooklyn; Miss Susan B. Grauer, Buffalo; Rev. William Baum, D. D., Canajoharie; Miss F. Fellows, New York; William Winnegar, Rochester; G. L. Snyder, Kingston; Rev. U. J. Klingensmith, Syracuse.

Credential committee: W. L. Bradt, Binghamton; H. D. Brandes, New York; A. Gilchner, Brooklyn; F. W. Schwartz, Albany; H. Rechsteiner, Buffalo; Miss M. F. St. John, Centre Brunswick.

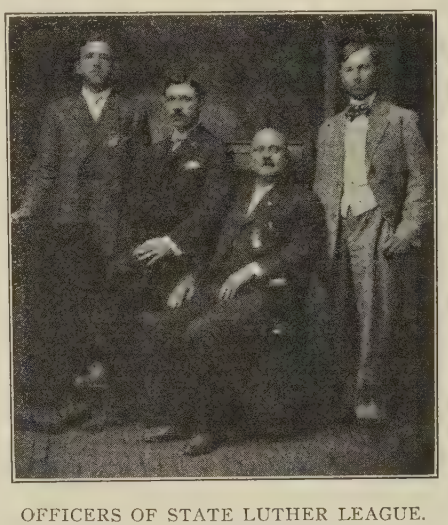
Press committee: J. Lieberman, Albany; Mr. Malcomb, Albany and Susquehanna; Mr. A. M. Aschott, Brooklyn; Miss F. R. Stern, Buffalo; C. Rockwell, Utica; Mrs. A. R. Pardee, Kingston; L. C. Smith, Rochester; Miss Wessels, New York; Mr. Hiedham, Syracuse.

After the singing of a hymn, a paper on "The Future, Its Dangers," was read by Carl F. Fritschler, of Brooklyn, who said:

To discuss the dangers of the future is a rather difficult matter, especially for young people. The natural optimism of youth makes it almost impossible for our younger generation to look into the future with a thought for anything but its bright side. Our young people are generally accustomed, and in many cases, taught, to give very little consideration to the future except as to its brightest and most hopeful sides.

But, nevertheless, as an organization of thoughtful young people, as a band of devoted religious workers, whose object it is by combined effort to train up a loyal laity in our beloved Church, whose motto is, "Of the Church, by the Church, and for the Church," it behooves us at this time to give a little consideration to the darker aspects of the future, in so far as they may be determined, to recognize and carefully discuss those points which, according to present estimates, may be accepted as sources of danger for the days to come.

And at the outset let us emblazon over the gateway of the future the Scriptural admonition, Deut., 8:11: "Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God." To some this may appear as putting it very strongly, and yet what is more natural than to expect that our development is going to suffer from the tendency to get away from God, which is so plainly exhibited in our day and which appears as a menace to the future of Christianity in this country? In so many supposedly Christian pulpits today we find the inclination to substitute human wisdom for the Word of God; we witness so many cases where sermons degenerate into florid orations, delivered chiefly with a view to securing for them the best spaces in the news columns of the papers on Monday morning, and the more sensational such discourses become the greater the throngs



OFFICERS OF STATE LUTHER LEAGUE.
Left to right—Frank Yenney, recording secretary; Fred Ihlo, treasurer; W. H. Rector, president; Paul Mattice, statistical secretary.

which rush to hear such a preacher, and the greater the number who read with avidity the weak substitute which they thus receive in place of the counsel of God.

And what a dangerous symptom it is when we see how many of our young people are attracted by such methods. To a good Lutheran the idea of using any other basis for the work of the Church than the Word of God, pure and undefiled, is abhorrent, is sacrilegious, and when our young people experience an attraction for the sensational circus methods so much in vogue at the present time, it is up to us as an organization to recognize the danger which threatens for the future in such a sentiment. Such indications are but evidences of how God can be forgotten by those from whom He has the most reason to expect unfailing allegiance.

One of the greatest sources of danger for the future lies in the possibility of our thus getting away from the splendid old Lutheran ideals, those grand principles which teach us to regard the power of the Word of God as greater than the wisdom of mortal, sinful man, which teach us to respect the house of God as a consecrated holy temple, and the Luther League should make it its work to stand for the perpetuation of those principles and ideals. We should make our organization a bulwark which will strengthen our Church in forever resisting the encroachments of the ultra-liberal, yes, the falsely liberal, tendencies of the present day.

A further source of great danger for the future may be found in a habit which may be observed to an

alarming extent among our Leaguers at the present time, that of mistaking the real object and purpose of the Luther League. In many of our local Leagues, particularly in the large cites, we find entirely too much attention paid to the social end, to mere worldly, frivolous things, without a proper regard for the educational and devotional side. Now, a proper measure of sociability is very much of a necessity for sound, healthy young people, but we must never lose sight of the fact that the work which is cut out for our great organization is primarily of an educational and devotional character, intended to strengthen in our young people their conception of serious things, their duty toward God, their duty toward their Church, their duty toward their fellow-man.

If we fail to recognize the necessity of giving first attention to this part of our League work, we shall be guilty of forgetting God, we shall be as unfaithful stewards, who have not properly conserved that which the Lord has committed to their care. The local League which fails to hold devotional meetings, which does not engage in some system of Bible study, which does not lay sufficient stress on the necessity of conducting the prescribed opening and closing services at all meetings, in which all members are to participate in a devout, worshipful spirit, is surely treading on dangerous ground, for the spirit of worldliness is slowly but surely creeping into that League and diverting it from its proper path, with little to hope for for the future.

Another danger which we recognize as being apparent in connection with the future is this, and this pertains especially to the local League, that the League may chance to become too self-centered, that is, some of its more ambitious officers or members may be inclined to overlook the pastor in connection with the League work. Now, the Luther League was never intended to be run independently of the pastor. We invariably find it to be the case that where the pastor's assistance is withdrawn the efficiency of the League work retrogresses. The help of the pastor is absolutely indispensable in all League undertakings; he must be its guide, its wise counsellor, the adviser of its officers, and we can be positively assured that where the proper relations exist between pastor and League the League can, and does, become a tower of strength in the congregation, which will furnish for all the years to come the necessary support in the shape of earnest, capable young folks, who will be able and willing to take up the work where their elders are obliged to leave off. It must be borne in mind that the League is part of the Church, it is one of the wheels within the wheel, and the individual members should make it their duty to incorporate themselves into every part of the Church work. In every case that dangerous tendency must be discouraged which, as we at times see, causes some of the members to give attention to League affairs at the expense of duty to the Church, such as, for instance, failure to attend services regularly. It should be our young people's delight to say with the Psalmist: "How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts! My soul longs for the courts of the Lord." The zeal with which our young people attend services is a barometer which will show the true extent of their Christianity.

And still another factor which looms up threatening and dangerous for the future is a fault which is displayed by so many of our Leaguers at present, the lack of individual initiative. We attend our League meetings, and how many of the members do we see taking an active part in the discussion of the topics or the other League business? As a rule, everything is done by a handful of more devoted workers, while the entire balance of the attendance acts like so many disinterested onlookers, apparently quite indifferent as to what is going on, every item of which should be of vital interest to them. In this country we are accustomed to boasting of our individual freedom, of the greatly extended rights accorded the individual, and also our Lutheran Church particularly is a field wherein the powers and rights of the individual are so strongly brought and conserved, therefore, how, in the face of these things, can our Leaguers be so unmindful of the positive duty devolving upon them individually of taking an active part, each and every one of them, in all affairs connected with the League business? It is just those Leaguers who are weak with respect to individual initiative who are most easily enticed away from the League and its activities, it is they who are most readily induced to stay away from meetings when some other more worldly opportunity presents itself. Many of us today have need of that strong individuality of devotion characterizing the twelve year old Jesus in the temple, uttering the divine reproach: "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" It is the lack of such a fine degree of spirituality in attending to the Father's business which makes optimism for the future difficult. Oh, we have need of the unwavering conscientiousness of a John the Baptist, crying out: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" We would not be so apprehensive as to our future were our Lutheran young people to give more evidence of the spirit of a Peter on that first Pentecostal day, who fearlessly arose and gave proof to the assembled multitude of the faith that was in him.

And having considered the dangers from within, is it not appropriate that we pay some attention to the dangers which menace from without? The conditions confronting many of our young people in their daily lives are not such as conduce to any great spiritual development. Our boys and girls go out into the world and come in contact with people of many different faiths, sometimes no faith at all, and one of our greatest problems for the future is how to keep our young people from becoming permeated with that dangerous spirit of indifference which in so many cases results from contact in business or social life with people who give little or no thought to things spiritual; and give that indifferent spirit sufficient play, and it is not long before we see dangerous symptoms of that further step in the wrong direction, the grave error of entire worldliness. Consider the existing conditions in our national life today, consider them carefully, and what do you find? Everything tending toward worldly ends, threatening such danger to our faith and to the chances of eternal salvation. There is a spirit of unscrupulous commercialism abroad in the land, we have in many places a corrupt political system, where conscience is debauched for the sake of the dollar! A swarm of undesirable immigration is day by day, year by year pouring into the country, which, under the peculiar laxity of some of our systems of government, is being allowed to shift for itself in the continuation of many of its barbarous, outlandish customs. All these influences for evil loom up large as signs of great danger for the future; they are bound to have a bad effect unless proper safeguards are applied in time, in order to more efficiently carry forward the work of saving immortal souls.

And in this work let the Luther League act as the support of the Church, helping her to make her people's lives brighter, their characters more godly, their faith stronger; let us continue in our work of education, inculcating into the hearts and minds of the young folks greater knowledge of things spiritual, acquainting them with the greatness of their Church, and impressing upon them what a glorious heritage is theirs! Let us aim to make them more sincere, more steadfast, more faithful; let us hold up to them the Scriptural injunction: "Hold fast that which thou hast, that no man take thy crown from thee."

A discussion followed. One speaker remarked concerning the necessity of some members, the handful only being active. Another spoke of the advisability of all the members becoming actively engaged, the handful urging the less active. She alluded to the beneficial results which are being derived in our schools because of the debates in use at the present time. She referred to a debate held in her League by high school students, which resulted in the display of great talent in original thought, and fine expression and self confidence of the young people.

A third person spoke of the prevailing custom among some to go to other churches to hear other preachers. She advocated loyalty

(*Continued on page 20.*)

Luther League of America

Eighth Convention, Chicago, August 11, 12, 13

Chicago is perfecting the plans for the great Convention of the Luther League of America. For information concerning hotels, etc., write to Mr. C. C. Eisemann, 5638 Princeton avenue, Chicago.

The Palmer House, which has been selected as the Headquarters for the Convention, is located at the corner of State and Monroe streets. It is right in the center of the retail business portion of the city.

A banquet will be served the delegates to the National Convention and to the members of the various committees in charge of the Convention by the Lutheran Woman's League of Chicago at 5 p. m., August 11, in the parlors of Immanuel Swedish Lutheran Church, corner of Sedgwick and Hobbie streets.

A rest room for ladies attending the Convention will be provided. It will be in charge of a deaconess from the Norwegian Deaconess Home, Leavitt and Haddon avenues.

The concert music of the Convention will be "Ruth," a sacred cantata, the words by Edward Oxenford and the music by Alfred R. Gaul.

The Chicago District League has had a substantial growth. In February, 1906, it had twenty-four societies. January, 1908, thirty-six societies and eight Junior Leagues were reported, making a total of forty-four societies and a membership of 2,172. The largest society is that of St. Paul's, having 104 members, and People's Church, with fifteen members, is the smallest League. There are two Danish, two German, three Swedish, nine Norwegian, twenty English and eight (English) Junior societies.

Chicago is called the "Windy City." Really, it is the Garden City. Its beautiful parks and boulevards entitle it to this distinction. These are Lincoln, Jackson, Washington, McKinley, Humboldt, Douglas, Garfield, Union, Grant or Lake Front Park, which last is in the heart of the city, besides numerous smaller parks.

Car rides can be taken to the suburbs, and in almost any direction for five cents, and there is a liberal transfer system in operation.

The Illinois State Luther League Convention will be held in Handel Hall, Chicago, August 10, at 2 p. m., and will blend into the National Convention.

Handel Hall is located on Randolph street near State street. Here the business sessions of the National Convention will be held.

From Our General Secretary

THIS month hundreds of our young people have gone from our schools and colleges to enter the sphere of active life. Luther was right when he said: "When schools prosper the Church remains righteous and her doctrines pure. Young pupils and students are the seed and source of the Church. If we were dead, whence would come our successors, if not from the schools? For the sake of the Church we must have and maintain Christian schools." Education has been and is a great work of the Church. As the talents of our educated laity are devoted to the welfare of the Church they advance and strengthen her every interest.

The seventh annual convention of the Central Iowa District Luther League, at Eagle Grove, Ia., June 2 to 4, was of unusual interest. It was the largest convention of the District, and the church was crowded at all the sessions of the convention. The papers and discussions were very instructive. It was a pleasure to attend this enthusiastic convention.

The thirteenth annual convention of the Luther League of Ohio was held in the First Lutheran Church at Mansfield, Ohio, June 24 and 25. Mansfield has five Lutheran churches, and these churches have a membership of 3,000. One-third of the Protestants in Mansfield are Lutherans.

The music of the convention was fine. The papers and addresses were all thoroughly prepared. It was the largest and most enthusiastic convention in the history of the Luther League of Ohio. One hundred and ninety-seven delegates and visitors registered representing an actual membership of 2,719. Seventy societies and five Juniors were represented. Fourteen Leagues made application and were received into membership in the State League. Ohio is to be congratulated on its magnificent showing for 1908.

At Chicago we found the local Convention Committee busy with preparations for the great National Convention. Among the arrangements so far perfected the following may be

mentioned. Several deaconesses will be in attendance upon the sessions of the convention to look after the necessities of delegates and visitors who may require their care.

Delegates and visitors should be careful to have their mail directed to: "The Luther League of America, Palmer House, Chicago." Arrangements have been made for postal facilities here.

A committee of 150 ushers is being organized. They will meet the trains and show delegates and visitors every courtesy possible. Be sure to wear your Luther League badges. If parties are coming together and will notify the local committee they will try *specially* to arrange to meet the train upon which the party will arrive. This committee of ushers will go on duty Monday, August 10, and delegates and visitors are requested to look for ushers at all stations, on arriving, who wear the official badge. They will give you all necessary information and direct you to the Palmer House to register.

For information about hotels write to Mr. C. C. Eisemann, 5638 Princeton avenue, Chicago.

"Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood—to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever." In this spirit of faith and service let us attend this convention of the Luther League of America, asking God's blessing upon the young people of our Church who shall assemble in Chicago.

LUTHER M. KUHNS.

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New York State Convention.

(*Continued from page* 18.)

and co-operation to your own home church and home pastor.

A fourth person spoke of the great necessity of personal responsibility of the League members.

The next paper, on "The Future, Its Prospects," by Rev. E. E. Fischer, of Brooklyn, was then read. He said:

The Luther League as a national organization is now thirteen years old. The first wave of enthusiasm and applause, which always accompanies the inception of a movement such as this, is over. It has now settled down to a steady pace, with a clearly defined objective and systematic efforts by which to realize this objective. The natural result has followed this step in advance. The process of separation and segregation has taken place. Those who joined the movement looking for other results or other methods have now had opportunity to withdraw, and those who now join the movement, join not because of the halo and glamour about a new undertaking, but because they have been persuaded to affiliate on the strength of the merits of the League, and the benefits they would derive from such affiliation. The object is clearly defined, the method of procedure has been clearly enunciated. The solid foundation has been laid. Can the Luther League hope to build successfully and permanently and gloriously upon this foundation for the future?

My answer is yes, provided the material progress of the League, along the lines which have now been laid down definitely, are not interfered with from without. If the law of supply and demand is as true in the ethical and spiritual world as it is in the material and economic world, then the Luther League should indeed have a glorious future before it, resplendent with excellent and permanent results. If the supply is regulated by the demand, then the Luther League should grow and increase and spread until it takes in every Lutheran young people's organization within this country. For that there is a demand, or should be a demand, for just that product which the Luther League produces cannot be gainsaid even by the most optimistic Lutheran. No Protestant Church has produced such a prolific literature as has the Lutheran Church. Our Church stands head and shoulders above every other Protestant denomination in the massiveness of her literary productions. But the polyglot constituency of our Church has affected this phase of the work as it has every other. Lutheran literature as a product in the English language is still in its infancy. We have just about begun to produce and reproduce the faith of the fathers in the language of the children. If we go into our public libraries, it is not, as a rule, Lutheran literature that we find in the alcoves devoted to religious work. How much of it do we find even in our Sunday School libraries, or in our home libraries? How many of us can mention the titles of five standard books—gems of Lutheran literature? No one can deny that there is a great demand in our Church, especially among the English speaking young people, for Lutheran reading, which shall instruct, enlighten, enthuse for our beloved Church. The American people, as a whole, are great readers. Read they must, and read they will, and if their attention is not directed definitely and specifically, along religious lines, to Lutheran literature, why, then, it is not very likely that they will find it. But they will find something, something which will perhaps not make them better Lutherans, but which will slowly prepare them for affiliation with some other denomination.

Now the Luther League has come forward to supply that demand. It has chosen to lay almost all the emphasis upon the educational feature. It has chosen as its objective the making of intelligent, and so, loyal, Lutherans out of our young people. It has given to our societies a literature in its Topics and reading course which is as intensive as it is extensive. It covers every branch of knowledge on which a young Lutheran should be posted—the missions of the Church and her missionaries, her history, her doctrine, her polity, and it has not neglected the spiritual needs of her members. It has furnished the fuel for the fire, the tension to the bow. The aiming of the arrow that it may hit the mark lies with others. The application of it all, the turning of it all into activity and power which shall accomplish material results—that must lie with the individual pastor. If we say that the Luther League is not accomplishing anything practicable, as some critics are saying, let us try to analyze the reason and see whether it is not because we are looking for it to accomplish that which is not and cannot be its sphere of activity. It can be only the John the Baptist in the wilderness, preparing the way. The traveling along that way can only be done and must be done by the individual society.

The Luther League, therefore, should have a glorious future before it, because it alone is producing that product which can supply the demand. And the demand for that product is already great, and as our congregations ascend the steps of culture and intelligence the demand, we can rest assured, will become still greater. Let the League, therefore, continue to pursue the course which it is pursuing in the same impartial, unbiased, inclusive way, and its future must be assured.

But the argument may be pressed that that which the Luther League is now doing may be done by the individual society or by the synodical body as well as, if not better, than is now being done by the general body. And a more local confinement of the work would have the advantage of making the transition

(*Continued on page* 26.)

Luther League Topics

Seventh Sunday After Trinity. August 2, 1908.

The Joy of Service

Psalm 100.

Questions: What does David urge we should do? Of what does David remind us? What is our duty? Compare Ps. 28:7; 35:9; 119:14, 16, 162.

A mistaken idea has prevented many people uniting with the Church of Christ. They have an idea that Christian service means giving up many pleasures and the sacrifice of many joys. So far as worldly pleasures are the joys of life, this is true. But there are joys that are higher than these, and we may substitute pleasures of one class for those of another kind, and thereby enhance our joy. The highest joys belong to the true Christian life.

We need to ask ourselves these questions: How much are we willing to sacrifice for the sake of principle? No matter what the cost, do we find joy in service for Christ? Over against worldly pleasures should be placed the joy of hope and eternal life; the joy of a useful and helpful life, with its work accomplished; the joy and satisfaction of doing God's will in our own lives, and for the sake of others; and the joy that comes of a clear conscience.

These are seemingly simple things, but they lead to great results. They give a joy like the peace that passeth all understanding. This lets us into the heart of the whole matter. True joy has moral and divine elements. It comes from God. It is not the product of a worldly life—this gives only husks. Where there is the spiritual life there is true joy. It is the testimony of a good man's conscience, and under adversity he can bear up and be cheerful. This is a result of that deep abiding joy that comes to those who serve Christ, and like the blue of the sky, it cannot be taken away, however cloud and mist may cover and obscure it.

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Eighth Sunday After Trinity. August 9, 1908.

Reaching the Unsaved

John 3:1-17.

Questions: Who came to Christ? What did he and Christ talk about? How did Jesus teach (a) the necessity of regeneration; (b) of faith in his death; and (c) the great love of God toward the world?

The testimony of pious men like Bunyan and Matthew Henry is that the greatest thing in the world is to save souls. This is simply an echo of the repeated teaching of Scripture. So John the Baptist pointed men to Christ. Andrew brought Peter to Jesus, and Philip led Nathaniel to Christ. How all this points to the one source of power in reaching the unsaved.

God's Word is the efficient and effective means for converting men. Whether it is read or preached or sung, it is the Gospel that is the power of God unto salvation. The main thing is that we use this means God has given us. It can convert the heathen, awaken the self righteous, stir the careless to action, set the doubters to thinking and transform the vicious and the depraved. It is the instrument God has given the Church for reaching the unsaved.

But it requires personal work. The minister cannot do it alone. Each member of the Church must bear his or her share of this responsibility. What a business this is—to go after the unsaved! How, do you ask? Introduce them to your pastor; go after them yourself; dare to speak to them of your Saviour; and act consistently with your profession. But do you ask where? You can begin by teaching in the sunday school and by leading in the meeting of the Luther League. From small beginnings new ways and methods will suggest themselves—but begin.

There is a joy in welcoming a person into the church. Dan. 12:3. Jas. 5:19-20. Once you acquire a taste for this work, you will wonder why you never thought of it before. Its rewards are among the deepest joys of life. Prov. 11:30; Matt. 25:34-40; 1 Cor. 9:19-22.

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Ninth Sunday After Trinity. August 16, 1908.

Personal Consecration—Christ in You

Rom. 8:1-11.

Questions: What does Consecration include? Rom. 6:11-23. What duties involved in Consecration? Rom. 12:1-21. What proof of our acceptance and righteousness? Eph. 1:13; Rom. 8:1-2.

In the heart of man the rule is either that

The Luther League Topics, complete lessons (of which the above are outlines and reviews), in 32-page pamphlet, covering three months, can be supplied at rates given on page 35 by Luther League Review, Box 876, New York, N. Y.

of Christ or Satan. It is of moment, therefore, that we should resist the devil. Upon the wise choice of being spiritually minded, rather than influenced by the carnal thoughts of a worldly life, depends the joy and peace of life. So let Christ be in you and let him reign in your hearts. This is a condition for personal consecration—that Christ shall be regnant in you.

First let it be noted that harm can come to genuine spirituality from the flesh. Verses 5, 13. There is enmity against God in the carnal mind. What else could any sensible person think? If they live a life ruled by the worldly idea, the life must conform to the rule that governs.

Second, let it be noted that good can come to life from the spiritual. Verses 6, 14. To be spiritually minded is to follow in the footsteps of Christ and to conform our wills to his. It allows Christ to live in you. The very condition of life and peace lies in this fact—that we be spiritually minded.

Third, let it be noted that they that are in Christ and live according to the spirit are free from condemnation. Is such a state not worth the cost? If we surrender our self-will and the enjoyment of carnal pleasures, a substitute is offered that is worth the cost. First of all, there is freedom from condemnation, and second there is freedom from the law of sin and death. It certainly is worth a life of surrender to Christ to be quickened by the power of his spirit dwelling in you. There is a power in Christ's life too little esteemed by man—the transforming power of faith.

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Tenth Sunday After Trinity. August 23, 1908.

Conscientious Work

1 Cor. 9:24-27.

What example have we of conscientious work? 2 Thess. 3:1-13. What motive and aim can be given for such work? Col. 3:14-25; 1 Cor. 10:24-33. What is conscientious work necessary to? 1 Thess. 4:1-12.

The workman and his work must be in harmony for conscientious work. Conscientious work may be tedious and difficult. But if the workman be dedicated to God he will be faithful in the little as well as in the great things of God. This kind of work has its reward, and grace and faith will be blessed with the Master's plaudit of "Well done."

Look at Paul's example. He endured trials, suffered disappointments and practised self denials. While many of his labors seemed in vain, yet he kept on, and he was full of confidence that a successful issue would crown his efforts and he would obtain his reward. How glorious the example of his Apostleship! It is full of encouragement to his lesser followers of today.

In the picture drawn by Paul, life is likened unto a race. Here in the training of an athlete for mastery in the games we find the law of conscientious work. It is a matter of subduing self to obtain the reward. There can be no uncertainty about such work. There can be no working to no purpose like a man beating the air. It is work done like the man who runs in a race determined to win. Such work needs no reconstructing. From the beginning it is well done.

Is the prize worth your efforts? The dignities and splendors are the great prizes of life. But the ivy wreath of the Olympian victor and the royal diadem of earth's mightiest potentate are not to be compared with the prize for which the Christian strives. Stretch forth every nerve, for everlasting life is the prize for which we as Christians strive. It is the reward for the honest workman engaged in conscientious work.

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Bible Readings

Sunday, July 12—Matthew 25:31-40.
Monday, July 13—Romans 6:1-14.
Tuesday, July 14—Eph. 4:20-32.
Wednesday, July 15—Col. 3:1-17.
Thursday, July 16—Matt. 6:22-34.
Friday, July 17—Romans 12:1-13.
Saturday, July 18—Matt. 18:1-10.
Sunday, July 19—I Peter 2:1-15.
Monday, July 20—Prov. 18:12-24.
Tuesday, July 21—Matt. 20:20-28.
Wednesday, July 22—Romans 14:10-21.
Thursday, July 23—Gal. 6:1-10.
Friday, July 24—Phil. 1:21-30.
Saturday, July 25—I John 4:1-12.
Sunday, July 26—III John.
Monday, July 27—Deut. 6:10-25.
Tuesday, July 28—Deut. 10:12-21.
Wednesday, July 29—Eph. 6:1-9.
Thursday, July 30—I Chron. 28:1-9.
Friday, July 31—Josh. 24:14-28.
Saturday, August 1—Rev. 7:9-17.
Sunday, August 2—Psalm 100.
Monday, August 3—Psalm 1:1-6.
Tuesday, August 4—Matt. 22:1-14.
Wednesday, August 5—Rom. 5:1-10.
Thursday, August 6—Luke 15:1-10.
Friday, August 7—Luke 14:15-24.
Saturday, August 8—II Cor. 5:11-21.
Sunday, August 9—John 3:1-17.
Monday, August 10—I Cor. 6:9-20.
Tuesday, August 11—I Peter 1:13-23.
Wednesday, August 12—Rom. 6:11-23.
Thursday, August 13—II Cor. 8:1-15.
Friday, August 14—Gen. 22:1-14.
Saturday, August 15—Rom. 12:1-21.
Sunday, August 16—Rom. 8:1-11.
Monday, August 17—Eccl. 2:10-22.
Tuesday, August 18—II Thess. 3:1-13.
Wednesday, August 19—Rom. 12:1-11.
Thursday, August 20—I Thess. 4:1-12.
Friday, August 21—Col. 3:14-25.
Saturday, August 22—I Cor. 10:24-33.
Sunday, August 23—I Cor. 9:24-27.

Luther League of Ohio

Thirteenth Annual Convention at Mansfield, June 24-25

EMMA E. MAST.

THE Luther League of Ohio has made wonderful strides during the past year. This fact was very evident at the convention held in Mansfield, June 24 and 25. While the highest spirit of enthusiasm was manifested over the remarkable work done during the past year the sessions were characterized by the spirit of worship and devotion.

The First Lutheran Church, which is one of the largest in Ohio, was filled with delegates and visitors for the opening session, Wednesday evening. After the organ postlude by Miss Anna Klippel and an anthem, "My Redeemer Lives," by the large chorus choir of the church, Rev. L. H. Burry, of Massillon, conducted the devotional services. Mr. Earl C. Houk, a member of the church, gifted with a magnificent voice, but deprived of the light of the sun, sang "The Lord Is My Light." His singing was one of the many things that will long be cherished in the minds of those who were fortunate enough to attend the convention.

The principal address of the evening was delivered by the Rev. Walter E. Schuette, of Toledo, on the subject "Will Lutheranism Live?" Rev. Schuette is an orator of exceptional ability.

He characterized the Lutheran church as the mightiest religious force at present at work in the world. The Lutherans were and are not afraid of the future of Lutheranism. The question as to whether or not their church would survive during the flight had no terrors for them. Present day Lutherans were descendants of a race of heroes and it was inevitable that they should face the future with complacent equipoise.

He next proceeded to an analytical discussion as to what Lutheranism was. He said the Lutherans in striking contrast to certain other churches did not consider the doctrines of their Church as mere dusty records to be shelved in some dark corner, but thought of their doctrine as real and vital. Their imperishable faith in their doctrine was what furnished the strength of their Church. The Church believed in the old faith in all of its simplicity and beauty. The belief of the Lutherans in their old faith was not disturbed by things temporal. They preferred to take the Word of God in its entirety and abide by its teachings.

He spoke relative to the thoroughness with which the doctrine of the Lutheran Church is instilled into the minds of all of their members.

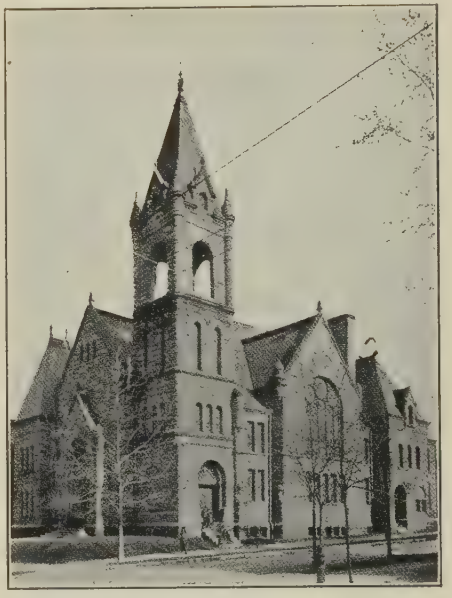
He spoke of the future of the Church. He said that Lutherans need entertain no fears concerning the future of the mighty power for good their Church at present exerted. From the very essence of Lutheranism their Church would live without any personal effort on their part. Efforts had been made in the past to exterminate their Church, but it had survived and would continue to do so in the future.

One thing needed, however, to furnish perpetuity to the Church was for the younger generation to remain. Some of their friends may go to other churches and for that reason they sometimes desire to join that denomination, but they must outgrow any such inclination on their part.

Rev. Schuette said the young Lutherans must not be influenced by the gaudy exterior of some churches, but should cling to their old faith and church.

The president, Mr. Marvin W. Lutz, announced his committees and the convention adjourned to the parlors of the church, where a most delightful reception was given by the society of the local church.

Thursday, June 25, Augsburg Day, devotional services at the opening of the morning session were conducted by the Rev. D. H. Bauslin, D. D., of Wittenberg Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ohio. Rev. Leander S. Keyser, D. D., of Canal Dover, spoke on "What



FIRST CHURCH, MANSFIELD,
Where Convention Was Held.

Are the Best Topics for Lutheran Young Peoples?" He said, in part:

If there are a good, a better, and a best, our Lutheran young people ought to have the best. They deserve it, they need it, they should not be satisfied with anything less. Without being either narrow or sectarian, it is our firm convicition that at present the best topics for Lutheran young people are those furnished by the Topics Committee of the Luther League. They are educative along the very lines most profitable to our young people. This is a day of specialization, and if we cannot investigate every realm, we ought at least to be informed on those things that pertain to our own work and church and field. What would you think of a man who professed to be a watchmaker, and who knew a great many general facts, but little or nothing about watches? Work in the Lutheran Church is the specialty of Lutheran youth. After learning about their own church, let them also learn as much about other useful things as they can.

Sometimes it has been said that our topics are too difficult for our young folks. Within the last two

years the committee has sought to put the spiritual fodder a little lower. However, if the topics are a little hard, so much more chance to learn something. If they were as easy as a primer, nothing would be learned and there would be no incentive to study. Besides, our Topics booklet, LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, and church papers give much information relative to every topic proposed for the meetings. It cannot be said that our Luther League topics are lacking in the historical, the practical or the spiritual. A glance over the topics of the past year and the next year will show that each kind of topic is given its due proportion of attention.

The themes for our Lutheran young people are by no means exhausted. Following the general plan heretofore adopted, we might take up such Biblical themes as the books of the Bible, great facts of the Bible, leading topics of the Bible, minor Bible characters, Bible epigrams, the parables and miracles of Jesus, and kindred themes.

Among spiritual themes (though all Christian themes are spiritual, for that matter), we might discuss the functions of the Holy Spirit, the witness of the Spirit, Christ in the heart, a true Christian experience, assurance of pardon and salvation, the baptism of fire, dangers from formalism, true spiritual unction, perils of intellectualism, one-sided emphasis on doctrine, Christian experience and the Trinity, baptismal grace, and the real presence, experience and regeneration, justification, and sanctification. Thus it will be seen that an inviting and inexhaustible field lies open before our Leaguers. We need not be narrow; there is no Christian theme that we may not sooner or later study and discuss in our League meetings.

Miss Emma Klippel then sang "Not Every One that Sayeth" in a most pleasing manner.

Prof. C. L. Martzolff, of the University of Athens, who was to speak on the subject "Augsburg Day," was unable to be present on account of illness. His paper was read by the Rev. S. P. Long, and showed the political as well as the religious significance of this great day:

A man stood on the Acropolis to preach. He was a tent maker, a disciple of Jesus of Nazareth, and his name was Saul of Tarsus. Seated on the stone stairs of the Areopagus was, perhaps, the shrewdest, the most polished, the most acute and at the same time the most scornful assemblage that ever surrounded a Christian preacher. This was the day, according to historian Guizot, that democracy conceived in Asia.

Fourteen and a half centuries later, another man stood in the throne room at Worms. He was a miner's son, a monk, and his name was Martin Luther. Before him sat the most powerful monarch of Europe occupying the illustrious throne of Charlemagne and bearing on his brow the iron crown of the Lombards. Around him sat the princes of state and the dignitaries of the most formidable ecclesiastical hierarchy known in the annals of history. This was the day that democracy was born in Europe.

Two hundred and fifty-five years later, still another man stood in Independence Hall, in Philadelphia. He was the son of a planter, a lawyer, and his name was Thomas Jefferson. Surrounding him were fifty-five of the most determined men that ever sat in council. This was the day that democracy came to man's estate in America.

Except in time it is not a far cry from Paul to Jefferson. But it would be a farther cry if there had been no monk with his hammer at the door of the Castle Church, no hero priest at Worms and no articles of faith at Augsburg. It is significant that these three great links in the evolution of democracy were forged in the university—Paul at the feet of Gamaliel, Luther in the cloistered halls of Wittenberg, and Jefferson from the classic precincts of William and Mary. * * * For Germany and for modern history Luther is not simply the name of a distinguished man. It is the living germ of a period of national life and an epoch of universal history. It is the center of a new circle of ideas, the more direct and apt expression of the religious and moral views that controlled the attention of the German mind, from the mighty influences of which the world cannot escape.

The final address of the morning service was delivered by Rev. L. H. Burry on the subject "After Confirmation, What?"

Confirmation is one of the decisive and one of the critical moments in the life of the Lutheran Christian. Many do not seem to understand the import of Confirmation. It might be well to ask this question. Confirmation is that church rite that has been handed down by the early church and retained by the Lutheran Church in which baptized children, after having been instructed in the truths of God, confess their faith. Whereupon the Church lays hands of blessing upon them and then gives the full privilege of heir of God. Confirmation does not mean uniting with the Church, the baptism of a child implies that. The heir at Confirmation becomes of age and lays hold for himself upon his heritage. This heritage he should not squander as the prodigal son did, or sell his birthright as Esau did, or tie it up in a napkin like the man with one talent, but to use it aright to the glory of God. The Lutherans come by confirmation into possession of a case of valuable gems, the word of God, Jesus Christ the Son of God as our only Saviour, her precious doctrines, not by our works, not by our righteousness, but by our faith are we saved. The Word and Sacraments are not pictures, but the means of Grace. Such treasures are richer than all the golds of India.

It implies therefore that that child of God shall take a new position in life. After confirmation it must take up the duties of a Christian man or woman. Have new interests. Nothing equals the treasures you have in your own Church; do not go trading for this and for that. Do not allow your treasure to lie idle. My young friends, there is room and there is opportunity for us. Remember the Lord Jesus Christ himself is an example of what you should do with the gifts your fathers have given you. Mary and Martha show you how the treasure and inheritance should be used. Mary delighted to sit at the feet of her Saviour and hear the words of life. I want to say the greatest service you can render God is to sit at the feet of Jesus from time to time in the house of God or your own homes and let Him serve you with the means of Grace. Those who have the heart of Mary will also perform the service of Martha, who ministered unto Jesus. It would seem that there is a sign in the Church all around, "Men Wanted." Men wanted everywhere. Women wanted too. "After Confirmation, What?" Refer to Christ's confirmation, when he said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Devotional service was conducted by the Rev. E. L. T. Engers, of Barberton. A splendid address was then delivered by Mr. E. P. Otis, Akron, on the subject "Loyal Luther Leaguers." The speaker took up the meaning of the three words that comprised his subject:

Loyal is an attribute every one ought to possess: we should direct our loyalty to Luther, and Leaguers are those who should direct this loyalty. There is no brighter gem than loyalty. Specific loyalty to the church founded by our Saviour and His disciples. Interdenominationalism is like a ship set loose on the ocean with set sails, no definite aim in view. Luther League is an agency of the Church, the right hand of the Church, and cannot stand alone. The league is and has been performing a noble work. The League is formed for the purpose of pressing upward and for the purpose of defending the Lutheran Church from the outside. Unfortunately, it will have to be admitted as true that we as Lutherans, that the Lutheran Church as an organization, does not today and never has commanded one tithe of the respect and influence to which we are entitled by our wealth, numbers, etc. Lutherans have been contending among themselves. The man who does not respect himself has no right to expect the world to respect him. As Lutherans we must be self respecting. We

must respect ourselves or the world will not respect us. I believe we are looking toward a brighter and better day. The hand of every member of the Luther League is extended toward every other Lutheran, regardless of the language, synod, etc. May we not as Lutherans forget that in America we must march under no more than two banners, that of Jesus Christ and the grand old emblem, the Stars and Stripes.

Miss Clara Long favored the convention with a solo, "Aria from St. Paul," after which the Rev. Harvey S. Lawrence, of Springfield, presented the subject, "The Final Aim of the Luther League."

It must follow that in the final aim of the Luther League there will be some sense of service, its embodiment and representation. But in the attainment of that service it may be well for us to think for a little while at least upon some of the elements that enter into it. One of these elements certainly must be education. An education that has to do with the knowledge of the work that lies before us in our own beloved Lutheran Church.

We look, too, upon the spiritual side, the development of the spiritual life within our own selves first and then in others with whom we come in contact from day to day. Many of us are ready to encourage somebody else. Many a time it is not so much money as it is spiritual help, encouragement and guidance. Many will give of their means, but it is to be not so much of telling or showing others how to do, but a real and true preparation to be able to do the real things of life.

A very interesting Question Box was conducted by the Rev. A. B. Markley, of Zanesville, Ohio. Questions of a very practical nature were thoroughly discussed. This was followed by the reports of committees and officers. The statistical secretary's report was very encouraging. It showed that thirteen new Leagues had been added to the organization at this convention. Credentialed delegates present, 115; pastors present, non-delegates, 23; visitors and officers, 59. Seventy-five societies and almost 3,000 members were represented.

The treasurer's report showed a most prosperous year and a neat balance on hand. The Committee on Nominations presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted: President, Marvin W. Lutz, Mansfield; vice-president, Rev. A. B. Markley, Ph. D., Zanesville; recording secretary, Miss Clarice Goodyear, Cleveland; corresponding secretary, Miss Rosa Sheriff, Mansfield; statistical secretary, Mr. E. F. Stahlsmith, Cleveland; treasurer, Mr. Charles E. Matthes, Mansfield. Delegates to the National Convention—Elva Grafton, Barberton; Conrad B. Grane, Canal Dover; E. P. Otis, Esq., Akron; Miss Olga Winegarten, Bucyrus; Erle C. Greiner, Zanesville; Jacob Wahl, Toledo; M. W. Lutz, Mansfield; Miss Eva Lehman, Canton; Prof. C. C. Patterson, Springfield, and E. F. Stahlsmith, Cleveland. Executive Committee — President and Secretary; Mr. A. C. Halloway, Akron, five years; Rev. E. L. T. Engers, Barberton, four years; Rev. O. D. Baltzly, Mansfield, three years; Mr. G. W. Ludy, Bellefontaine, two years, and Miss Dolly Beech, Middlepoint, one year.

The official constitution prepared by the National League for State organizations was adopted.

An invitation to meet at St. John's Lutheran Church, at Zanesville, in 1909, was accepted.

THURSDAY EVENING.

A large and enthusiastic audience filled the church for the closing session. There were two speakers for the evening, the Rev. George B. Hanches, Ph. D., of Chicago, and the Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, of Omaha, General Secretary of the Luther League of America. Devotional services were conducted by the Rev.

MARVIN W. LUTZ,
President Luther League of Ohio.

S. P. Long, pastor loci. Special music was furnished by the church choir; solos by Mr. Dimon Herring and Mr. Earl C. Houk, and a quartet composed of Rev. Long and daughters. The music throughout the entire convention was most inspiring, the singing by the large audience on several occasions, especially in the rendering of the Rally Hymn and other of our dear old Lutheran hymns, was indeed uplifting.

Rev. Mr. Hancher used as his subject the immortal words of Luther, "Here I Stand."

These three little words were spoken by our hero whose name we bear. I believe I would be telling the truth if I said they were spoken in the midst of

a mob. They called it a Diet. What kind of a Diet was it? It was the Diet of Worms that Luther was in. Spoken at a time when it stood for something, as in all probability a man would lose his head and his life. It was not easy for our hero to say, "Here I stand," because he made a new platform. A name is nothing. It was a mere accident that we were called Lutherans. The soul of a man, not his cognomen, is what really counts. Names are merely accidents of birth, but the deeds which we accomplish are what amount to something. Depew once said platforms are not made to stand on, but to get in on. My hero's platform was not made to get in on, it was made to stand on and to live on. Man is worth nothing unless he has some principle. One of the most important planks in our platform is the open Bible. A Lutheran preacher does not preach with his Bible closed. This book is not simply a book for the services of the Church, but a book for the home, the school, the church, and everywhere. It is hard to understand what people mean when they say they are afraid to put this book into the hands of the uneducated. A second plank is the supremacy of conscience. This inner light was given to us by God, and we must be guided by its teachings. We should follow the warnings of this light in preference to all others. Another plank is heroism. The Church needs brave men, men possessed with physical and also moral courage. There is a woful lack of moral heores. Moral cowards are despicable. No one should be afraid to do their duty. The last plank in our platform that I wish to call attention to is that of Justification by Faith.

Rev. Luther M. Kuhns brought greetings from the National League and spoke along lines of encouragement to Luther Leaguers.

The addresses of the evening were both inspiring and every one was highly pleased with the speakers and their addresses.

The report of the Committee on Resolutions adopted by the convention is as follows:

"That, whereas, God has permitted us to gather in thirteenth annual convention, we recognize and praise the Divine goodness and grace toward us, and implore future help in the great work committed to the Luther League and our beloved Lutheran Church.

"Second, That we express our high appreciation of the able and inspiring addresses of the speakers of this convention. We regret the sickness and absence of Professor Martzolff, recognizing his thoughtfulness in sending the manuscript.

"Third, That we are gratified at the continued success of our League work, congregational and State, and the number of Leagues that joined the State League, praying and pledging our labors for greater things this coming year.

"Fourth, That we recommend a more general use of our Luther League literature, Hymnal, Topics, Review, Constitutions, etc.

"Fifth, That we are happy to greet our always genial National Secretary, the Rev. L. M. Kuhns, and hope he will permit us to share liberally in his rich experience in Luther League work.

"Sixth, That we extend our sincere thanks to Pastor S. P. Long and members of the League of the First Lutheran Church and all friends in Mansfield, for the hearty welcome given us, the choir and soloists, who added so much to the convention, and pray God's continued blessing upon them."

After the singing of a hymn and the benediction, the most successful convention of the Luther League of Ohio adjourned.

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New York State Convention.

(*Continued from page 20.*)

from the general to the specific, from the theoretical to the practicable, more easy to accomplish. All of which may be true. We cannot deny that if every individual society or conference would prepare for itself some such plan as is now outlined by the national body, and adhere to that plan and follow it out, there would be no need of a national organization. But the question is, What was done, or is being done, or can be done by the individual? What, after all, is the primary object of an organization? It is not to present an array of figures, of statistics, of external strength and power. Its strength lies in this, that it enables the individual to accomplish that which alone he could not do. If there is a young people's society which employs methods which are successful in producing results, should that society not communicate the secret of its work to others, that others might enjoy the same success, too? If a Synod or a Conference has in its possession materials and facts which make it feel proud of its Lutheran heritage, should there not be some systematic effort made to bring those facts into the possession of the whole Lutheran Church, that we may all rejoice in them and feel proud of our Lutheran heritage? The object of an organization is to give, and not only to receive, to teach and not only to learn, to collect the scattered and dissipated forces, and apply them in such a manner that they may result in the upbuilding of every individual part which goes to make up the whole.

Such is the work and object of the Luther League, and truly, it would be difficult to conceive of a nobler or more necessary object. We know what it stands for, we know what it is trying to accomplish, and we know what methods it is employing to accomplish the end in view. Were there no demand for that which the Luther League offers, why then we should say that it had no prospects, either good or bad. But there is a demand for it. There is a crying need in our churches for something which will harness and bridle the store of energy in our young people's societies—that energy which is so often expended upon useless frivolities which neither bind our young people to the Church by lasting and permanent ties, nor make them intelligent and God fearing Christians. We need the training of the mind, such as the League prepares. We need to know the Lutheran Church in her length and breadth and height, that we may become loyal Lutherans, true to our Church, true to her teachings, well able to carry on the work when once the burden of that work shall fall upon our shoulders. The Luther League is working for the future. The best results of its work will not be manifest until this present generation of young people comes to occupy the position and do the work which our fathers are now doing. Then their training, their intelligence, their loyalty, will be transmorphosed into practical accomplishments, and they will take up the work with the enthusiasm which comes from the knowledge of its scope, of its possibilities, of its grandeur, and of its blessings.

This paper was also open to discussion.

The closing hymn was "Blest Be the Tie That Binds Our Hearts in Christian Love."

The closing devotional services were conducted by Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, of Omaha, Neb.; Rev. Oscar Krauch, of Albany, and Rev. H. Douglas Spaeth, of Albany.

Luther League of South Dakota

Eleventh Annual Convention at Vermilion, May 3-5

BY JOHN G. BERDAHL.

THE eleventh annual convention of the Luther League of South Dakota was held at Vermilion, S. Dak., Rev. J. R. Lavik's charge, May 3-5, 1908. A large number of enthusiastic young people had assembled to consider matters of importance to their Christian life and to their Church activity.

Rev. J. N. Kildahl, president of St. Olaf College, preached the opening sermon on Sunday morning. Rev. Kildahl had chosen for his text Heb. 11:24-26. In a clear, but simple and powerful manner he showed the wisdom of Moses in that he chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." He made an earnest plea to the young people of today to follow the example of Moses. The sermon made a deep impression upon the many young people who heard it.

In the afternoon of the same day, Prof. C. P. Lommen, of Vermilion, bade the delegates and visitors a hearty welcome in few but well chosen words. Rev. A. M. Mannes, of Yankton, responded on behalf of the convention, and also took occasion to offer a brief outline of the purposes for which it had assembled. Thereupon, Rev. O. Glesne, president of the organization, gave his annual address. It was gratifying to hear from his report that there is a growing interest in Luther League and Young People's work in the State, but it appeared, too, that much work still remains to be done in arousing interest in a large number who are yet inactive.

The convention theme which had been chosen was "Personal Consecration." This subject was presented in three papers and these were then discussed as much as the time would permit. The first paper, "Personal Consecration—Its Motive," had been written by Andrew Norstad, of Dell Rapids. It was read at the Sunday evening session by Rev. G. M. Bruce, the writer being unable to be present. Rev. J. M. Green, of Brookings, led the discussion of this paper.

The Monday morning meeting opened with a thirty minute prayer session. At this morning's session Rev. C. M. Grimsrud, of Aberdeen, discussed "Practical Luther League Work in the Country." Many valuable and timely suggestions were presented for carrying on the work successfully in the country districts. In the afternoon Miss Martha Berdahl, of Garretson, read a paper on "Personal Consecration—Its Requirements." This paper was discussed by Rev. P. J. Reinertsen, of Elk Point, and others. In the evening the local League gave an informal reception to the visitors. This was an occasion highly enjoyed by all, as it made it possible to meet and spend a social hour in an informal way. The members of the local League deserve credit for their splendid entertainment, both on this occasion and throughout the whole convention.

Tuesday morning Edward Sövik read a paper on "Personal Consecration—Its Consequences," the discussion of which was led by Rev. G. M. Bruce, of Dell Rapids. The afternoon session was devoted to business, after the completion of which Miss Ida Groseth, of the Hauge's Synod China Mission, spoke in a very interesting manner about "Schools in China." At the business session the following officers were elected: President, Rev. O. Glesne, Aberdeen; vice president, Rev. A. M. Mannes, Yankton; recording secretary, Miss Palma Monrad, Canton; treasurer, Mr. Andrew Norstad, Dell Rapids; corresponding secretary, Miss Clara Olson, Aberdeen; literature secretary, Prof. C. P. Lommen, Vermilion.

On invitation of the delegates of the League at Aberdeen that city was chosen as the place for holding the next annual convention. The president and vice president were chosen delegates to the National Convention to be held at Chicago. A report of the convention was ordered printed. This will contain the papers that were presented at the meeting and a report of all the business, together with other information.

At the Tuesday evening meeting, which was the closing session, Prof. C. W. Thompson, of Vermilion, spoke of the "Higher Vision." Professor Thompson's address was a very eloquent plea for ideals that are above the material things that seem to control the actions of men at the present time. Only Christianity furnishes these higher ideals. Brief remarks were made by the pastors present, an offering

(*Continued on page* 30.)

Luther League Review

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LUTHER LEAGUE
ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE
Luther League of America
IN THE INTERESTS OF
The Lutheran Church and her Young People.

Edited by E. F. EILERT
WITH
W. C. STOEVER, Philadelphia, Pa. — I. S. RUNYON, New York, N. Y.
LUTHER M. KUHNS, Omaha, Neb. — C. ELVIN HAUPT, Lancaster, Pa.
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And the co-operation of the Executive Committee of the Luther League of America

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Editorial

The past year in the work of the Luther League has been one of encouragement. It has grown by a quiet growth. "Forward" should be our motto for the coming year, never faltering, but working upward for better things and for advancement in the better life. The need of our Church today is active laymen, and we can hope to have them only through the careful training and service of the young people. The coming generation has a great power in its hands, and whether it shall be for good or ill depends upon the work which we are doing now. We need better Christians, people who live according to Christ's rule. We need loyal Lutherans who are ready to give their time, their service, their prayers, their money to the work of our Church. We need united effort, not fault-finding and criticism, but concerted action and consideration of the best course to pursue in the advancement of our Church and its work everywhere throughout the world.

The key thought of the Chicago Convention to be held August 11 to 13 is "Expansion," that is progress—not only in the work of the League, but in the work of the Church; and the League can be made a factor in the development of our Church power. Our young people have not been educated as they should have been, or interested in what is doing, and if we are to be a force in this nation, our young people must be in training, and learn their duty and privilege both as Lutherans and citizens of this land. We need a Christianizing influence, and unless our youth be prepared, when they grow to manhood and womanhood they will be unable to cope with the evil tendencies and influences of the age. Other churches are educating their youth for church work, and we as Lutheran people should awake to the opportunities of the day and prepare for the work which is before us. We labor under disadvantages because we are not united, but our young people can learn what the Lutheran Church is doing, and become sufficiently interested to take up that portion of the work which they individually can do. With the prayerful and careful attention of the pastors and the members of the Luther League the work of education will progress rapidly.

Our Church has a noble band of laymen, but for lack of knowledge and encouragement they have not taken the place which they should occupy in the Church work. We have ability and wealth. Why can we not encourage and arouse our laymen to increased knowledge and activity, and thereby develop the service and power which we have within us? Our Church has always advocated "the priesthood of all believers," and the time has come when this motto should be spread, and be not only such in word but in deed.

The Convention at Chicago promises to be a large gathering, and will doubtless be a great event in our Church. Prayers should be offered frequently and earnestly that those

who take part in its services be guided by the Holy Spirit in their preparations, and that everything done and said be in accordance with our Father's will, so that every word and every action shall redound to His honor and glory, and assist in the upbuilding of our Church in strength, enthusiasm and faith.

During our summer vacations we meet new friends and casual acquaintances. Shall we exert a Christian influence upon them? As witnesses for Jesus, our summer opportunities for Christian influence ought to be constantly kept in mind. Let us make an earnest effort to live for Christ during our days of summer leisure.

A Christlike courtesy, helpfulness and consideration in our daily intercourse with others at the seashore or in the mountains may win hearts for Christ.

Do we love the Master? Then our Bibles and prayers and church attendance will not be neglected when we are away from home for the summer's outing.

Cultivate a cheerful disposition. Its value is incalculable. The work of life is always full of difficulties. Opposition meets us in every walk. Learn to look on the bright side. Is there no bright side? Then polish up the dark side.

Who ought to be the cheerful man? The Christian. All things work together for his good. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a message of encouragement and good cheer. "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say unto you rejoice." It is your privilege and your duty, as a Christian, to cultivate a cheerful and happy disposition.

"The Point of Paradise"

The large amount of convention matter appearing in this issue prevents our printing the continued story as above in this number. It will appear in the next issue.

State League Convention Reports

This number contains a special report of the New York State Luther League Convention at Albany, July 7 to 9. That the matter may be understood by all, the REVIEW desires to state that reports of State League conventions are given special attention when the convention subscribes for 1,000 or more copies of the number containing the report. These reports of special length sometimes reduce the volume of other matter, but no injustice is done subscribers. The real object of the REVIEW is to publish information about the League that will be helpful to all workers. No more profitable hour could be spent by a League worker, no matter in what part of America, Europe or Asia his field of work lies, than that given to a well planned and successful State League convention. From the addresses, papers and discussions of one of these conventions, the Leaguer can find ideas enough to keep him profitably employed in his own League for a year. Read the forceful papers and pointed discussion reported from the New York State League Convention, and see how many new ideas you can find for use in your own local work.

Book Reviews

REASON, HISTORY AND RELIGION. By Rev. J. M. Remensnyder, D. D. Cloth, 50 cents; paper, 25 cents. For the author by The Lutheran Publication Society.

This readable little volume of 94 pages is a reasonably successful effort to set human knowledge and reasoning in their true relation to religion. The best theories of philosophers, the latest discoveries of scientists and explorers, the most carefully prepared statements of historians based upon the latest discoveries, are gathered up and placed beside religion, in full view of the unbiased vision. Then the threads that actually and naturally stretch from the side of history and reason across to the realm of religion are carefully traced until the reader discovers a golden bond uniting the two and serving as a life line by which the Church of Christ is gently drawing all human agencies to a higher plane.

This book ought to clear many minds of doubts that religion can stand the light of science and discovered history.

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Luther League of South Dakota.

(*Continued from page 27.*)

was taken, a hymn was sung, the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Glesne, and the eleventh annual convention of the Luther League of South Dakota had finished its work.

The program of the convention was varied with music by local talent and by the choir and the Glee Club of Augustana College, Canton, and by Miss Siljan, vocal teacher at Augustana College.

May this convention, the words there spoken, and the actions there taken, lead to more faithful and earnest work for the Master. May all those present put into practice the valuable suggestions there received and thus make the Luther League truly an organization "Of the Church, by the Church, and for the Church."

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Our Churches and Institutions

In Some of Our Large Cities

New York—

—The cornerstone of the new Trinity Church, Rev. Dr. E. Brennecke, pastor, was laid Sunday, June 21.

—Rev. Geo. C. Loos, of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, has been called to become field missionary in Brooklyn.

—On Trinity Sunday, June 21, the Church of the Reformation, Brooklyn, Rev. H. P. Miller, pastor, broke ground for its new building.

—St. Stephen's Church, Brooklyn, Rev. Luther D. Gable, pastor, celebrated its tenth anniversary by cancelling its mortgage, June 19.

—An effort is being made by the Augustana Synod to raise funds to liquidate the debt on the Swedish Emigrant House in this city. The sum of $50,000 is required.

—Rev. W. H. Stutts has resigned his pastorate at Manorton, N. Y., to undertake missionary work in Brooklyn.

Philadelphia—

—A Lutheran mission in West Philadelphia, Rev. J. William Heintz, pastor, is to have as the gift of Mr. Jonathan Prichard a granite building, to cost $50,000, located at Elmwood avenue and Sixty-third street.

Pittsburgh—

—The Lutheran Church in Greater Pittsburgh shows a remarkable growth in the past twenty years. There are now more than 100 congregations. Thirty-one belong to the geeral Synod, thirty-one to the General Council, twenty-one to the Joint Synod of Ohio, and 17 to the Missouri Synod, besides several independent congregations.

Harrisburg—

—The men's Bible class in Christ Church, this city, began with thirteen members, now has a membership of 306, and raised for all purposes during the past year $850, of which amount $400 was contributed at Easter.

York—

—Christ Church, Rev. G. W. Enders, D. D., pastor, will celebrate the one hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding by Rev. Johannes Caspar Stoever on September 23, 1733 A. D. It has had in the time eleven pastors. The present pastor, Rev. Dr. Enders, began his twenty-seventh year of pastoral service July 1, 1908. He will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of his ministry in the Lutheran Church October 1 next.

St. Paul—

—Rev. William F. Bacher has accepted a call to the pastorate of Memorial Church, succeeding Rev. A. J. D. Haupt, D. D. Rev. Bacher concluded his work in the Church of the Redeemer, Kingston, N. Y., on June 21.

Kansas City—

—Plans for the new Children's Memorial Church, Rev. A. B. Shrader, pastor, have been adopted and contracts will soon be let. The new building will be erected in a new location on a main street in a rapidly growing section of the city.

Newark.

—Rev. Mosheim S. Waters completed fifteen years as pastor of Grace English Lutheran Church in June, and the event was observed by the congregation.

Wilmington, Del.

—Zion's German Lutheran Church, this city, Rev. P. Isenschmidt, pastor, on June 28 celebrated its sixtieth anniversary.

Miscellaneous.

—The new Krauth Memorial Library at the Mt. Airy Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, was dedicated on Wednesday, June 3. Many attended the services, which were held in a large tent on the campus. Distinguished educators and theologians, representing other institutions, were present and participated in the exercises. The new building is a handsome structure of collegiate Gothic architecture, and cost about $100,000. It is a memorial to Rev. Charles Porterfield Krauth, D.D. LL. D., who was born in Martinsburg, Va., March 17, 1823, and died in Philadelphia January 2, 1883. Dr. Krauth was a distinguished theologian, teacher and writer. He was associated with the University of Pennsylvania for eighteen years as a professor, trustee and vice-provost. He was also a professor in the Mt. Airy Seminary from 1864 to the time of his decease.

—At the recent meeting of the board of trustees of Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, announcement was made of a gift of $100,000 to the college by Col. John F. Firsch, for the erection of a science building to be completed within four years.

—A new chair of philosophy in Wittenberg College is made possible by the gift of $30,000 from Hon. John W. Bookwalter, of Springfield.

—Two anonymous donors have contributed $1,100 for the support of a parochial school connected with the Lutheran Church in Zumbroto, Minn., Rev. S. J. N. Ylvisaker, pastor.

—Lutherville Seminary, known in latter years as Maryland College for Women, has been sold by the owner, Rev. Dr. J. H. Turner, to Rev.

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Dr. C. W. Gallagher, president of the National Training School for Missionaries and Deaconesses of the Methodist Church at Washington.

—The Berlin Church Building Society within fifteen years collected among its members almost four million dollars. One of the churches built by the society was finished last year, the great Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, which cost $1,600,000. The second great undertaking—there were and there are smaller constructions in large number—is the Augusta Victoria Hall, on the Mount Olives, which is expected to be finished in 1910.

—The General Synod Deaconess Board is considering the erection of a new building for the Motherhouse at Baltimore. The present building is old, too small, and otherwise unsuitable. The contemplated new building will cost about $50,000.

—The Jacob Washington Franke Hospital and Home, at Charleston, S. C., was dedicated June 7. Several well known Lutheran ministers participated in the services. The Hospital is a memorial to the man whose name it bears, founded by his foster father, C. D. Franke.

—The fortieth anniversary of the pastorate of Rev. Samuel Wagenhals, D. D., in Holy Trinity Church, Fort Wayne, Ind., was celebrated on June 14 by special services.

—Rev. J. H. Hunton died at his home in Lima, Ohio, June 17, aged seventy-three years. He was the father of Rev. Dr. W. L. Hunton and Rev. Charles K. Hunton, Statistical Secretary of the Luther League of America.

—Rev. L. B. Wolf, D. D., president of Watts Memorial College, Guntur, India, and for twenty-five years a missionary in that field, has been elected General Secretary of the General Synod Board of Foreign Missions.

—St. John's Church, Joliet, Ill., has just completed a handsome new edifice, which, with the pastor's residence, under the same roof, cost $32,000. The congregation, organized about five years ago, numbers 270 people. Rev. H. M. Heilman, D. D., is the pastor.

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Luther League

Conducted by I. S. RUNYON

SEND IN THE NEWS.—Under this heading we aim to give the fullest reports possible of all District and Local Leagues. Secretaries and other officers are earnestly solicited to send in reports and items of news promptly.

Luther League of America

Organized at Pittsburgh, Pa., October 30 and 31, 1895, by delegates representing State, District and individual organizations from twenty different States in the Union and District of Columbia.

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All communications regarding membership, constitutions, etc., should be addressed to the General Secretary.

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Luther League of America

Statement No. 12

Treasurer's Statement Per Capita Account Paid, June 5 to July 6, 1908.

Lancaster Central Dist. Luther League of Pa.	$4.30
St. Mark's Luther League, Minneapolis, Minn.	2.50
Warren Luther League of Pennsylvania.....	5.00
Johnsonburg Luther League of Pennsylvania.	2.50
L. L. Church of Redeemer, Utica, N. Y....	6.00
Central Luther League of Berks County, Pa.	10.00
Luther League of Lucas, Ohio.....	3.80
Luther League of Grace Church, Canal Dover, Ohio	3.00
Elsie C. Jente, New Haven, Conn.....	5.00
St. John's L. L., Manorstown, N. Y.....	2.00
St. Mark's Church, Canajoharie, N. Y.....	5.00
L. L. of Mifflin, Ohio.....	2.10
	$51.20

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DUES ACCOUNT.

Dues Paid June 5 to July 6, 1908.

Brooklyn District L. L., New York	$3.00
State L. L., Iowa	10.00
Rhinebeck District L. L., New York	9.00
N. Y. City Dist. L. L., New York	6.00
Total	$28.00

J. F. DINKEY, Treasurer.

Rochester, N. Y., July 6, 1908.

NEW YORK

New York City District.

—An error in the last issue of The Review attributed to Mr. Charles A. Schnepel a part in the inspiration of the Luther League of Chicago, when the name of Mr. Herman Schnepel, a brother to Charles Schnepel, should have appeared in this connection.

—On May 26 the young people of the English Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, of Yonkers, N. Y., organized a Luther League, starting with a membership of twenty-one. The officers elected to serve for the remainder of this year are: President, Mr. H. Woodward; vice-president, Mr. A. Minder; treasurer, Miss A. Behrman; secretary, Miss A. Drewes; librarian, Mr. A. Olsen.

Mohawk Valley District.

—The Luther League of the Church of the Redeemer, Utica, N. Y., held its annual banquet in the chapel Monday evening, June 22. About forty Leaguers were present and enjoyed a thoroughly good time. The speakers and their toasts were: "The Past," Eugene Hieber; "The Present," Clifford Rockwell; "The Future," Elmer Scoville. The League quartet sang several selections, followed by Miss Mabel Ehresman, whose toast was "Jolly and Serious Times." Miss Ethel Markley recited "Knee Deep in June." The toastmistress, Miss Clara Guelick, called on the pastor, Rev. E. F. Keever, for a few words. He expressed his pleasure in the work the League had accomplished and outlined his plans for future work. The meeting closed with the Luther League rally hymn. The committee in charge were the Misses May Fulmer, Mary Helmer and Martha Herbig, and De Witt Southard, Eugene Hieber and Norman Rockwell.

PENNSYLVANIA

Catawissa District—

—The annual convention of the Catawissa District Luther League will be held in St. John's Church, Northumberland, Rev. H. C. Michael, pastor, September 3 and 4. Each local society is entitled to five delegates. It is hoped that these will be appointed in good time and their names sent to the pastor of the entertaining church.

Berks County District—

—The fifty-ninth quarterly convention of the Luther League of Berks County was held Friday, July 10, 1908, at Alsace Lutheran Church, Reading, Rev. Charles E. Kistler, pastor. The morning session was opened by a devotional service conducted by Rev. A. M. Weber, of Boyertown. After the response to greetings by the president, John H. Early, the regular business was transacted, and an excellent address on "Education" was given by Harvey F. Heinly, of Reading. The devotional service of the afternoon was in charge of Rev. Gable. Four highly instructive addresses were the features of the afternoon's session. 1, "The Church College," was delivered by Rev. J. A. W. Haas, D. D., the president of Muhlenberg College; 2, "The Theological Seminary," by Rev. M. C. Hourine, D. D., pastor of St. James' Lutheran Church, Reading; 3, "The Luther League as an Educational Factor," by George M. Jones, Esq., Reading; 4, "The Religious Press," by Rev. George W. Sandt, D. D., editor of The Lutheran, of Philadelphia. The devotional services in the evening were conducted by Rev. Charles

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E. Kistler, pastor of the church. The address of the evening was delivered by Rev. Charles E. Boyer, Ph. D., of Kutztown, on "Perfect Knowledge." The convention was very successful.

Northwestern District—

—The sixteenth annual convention of the Luther League of Northwestern Pennsylvania was held June 28 to 30, in the First English Lutheran Church, Warren, Rev. W. E. Brinkman, pastor. The Warren District Swedish League met in joint convention with the Northwestern District League, and about 140 delegates represented the two organizations. On Sunday morning, June 28, special services were held in both the Swedish and English Lutheran churches, Rev. O. O. Nelson, of Titusville, preaching in the former, and Rev. G. F. Gehr, of Erie, in the latter. A song service under the direction of Col. John Firch, of Erie, was held in the First Church on Sunday afternoon. At the Sunday evening service four short addresses on "Luther League Possibilities" were made as follows: "Among the Germans," by Rev. J. J. Neudoerffer, of Erie; "Among the Swedes," by Student C. O. Parsons, of Upsala College; "Among the Danes," by Rev. C. A. Hallberg, of Sheffield; "Among the English," by Rev. G. J. Gongaware, of Pittsburgh. On Monday morning and afternoon and Tuesday morning, the following topics were discussed in papers and speeches: "The Luther Leaguer's Attitude Toward the Liquor Question," by E. Wilber Krieble, Warren, and Rev. W. E. Frey, Erie; "Bible Study and Family Worship," by Albert Schersten, Titusville, and Rev. Paul Kummer, Johnsonburg; "The Ideal Pastor, in His Relation to the Luther League," by Rev. C. T. Benze, Erie, and Roy Beaver, Greenville; "The Luther League's Contribution Toward a Model Congregation," by Mr. Clyde Campbell, Renovo; "The League's Obligation to the Unchurched," by Rev. G. J. Gongaware; "The Luther League's Part in the Missionary Operations of the Church," by Miss Anna Witte, Erie; "The Junior League," by delegates from all the local Leagues. At the Monday evening rally Prof. O. F. H. Bert, dean of Thiel College, addressed the convention on "Higher Education for the Luther Leaguer," and "The Passion of a Prophet" was the subject of an address by Rev. S. P. Long, of Mansfield, Ohio. The Northwestern District League is now composed of fifteen Senior societies and six Junior Leagues, representing a total membership of 1,393. These Leagues raised last year $3,060.60 for various local and benevolent causes.

The following delegates were elected to the State Convention: Rev. W. E. Brinkman, Warren; Rev. J. J. Neudoerffer, Erie; Rev. O. O. Nelson, Titusville; Mr. J. L. Frederick and Miss Florence Heilman, Greenville. The delegates to the National Convention are Rev. G. F. Gehr and Zoe I. Hirt, of Erie, and Dr. C. J. Frantz, of Warren. The officers elected were: President, C. J. Frantz, M. D., Warren; vice president, Albert Schersten, Titusville; secretary, Miss Zoe I. Hirt, Erie; treasurer, Roy Beaver, Greenville.

Luther League Supplies

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—The Luther League and the Junior Luther League of Grace Church, Erie, Rev. F. E. Strobel, pastor, are active and enthusiastic students of the Topics.

MARYLAND.

—The Luther League of St. Mark's Church, Baltimore, Rev. J. F. Mueller, pastor, has undertaken to raise money for improvements to church property, besides paying one-half the cost of the steam heating plant now being installed. The League recently gave a very successful musical and literary entertainment.

OHIO

—Credentials for delegates to the Convention of the Luther League of America at Chicago in August have been distributed to all societies that were represented at the State Convention at Mansfield. If any society has not received its credentials, please notify E. F. Stallsmith, statistical secretary, No. 1410 East 115th street, Cleveland, who will forward blanks by return mail. Ohio is strong in Luther League work and should have a full representation at Chicago. Let the Buckeye State turn out in full.

E. F. Stallsmith, Stat. Sec'y.

—The Christian Endeavor Memorial Lutheran Church added some thirty names to the church roll during the Easter season just passed. This includes a large catechetical class, together with many who came here from neighboring towns. The Luther League, realizing that a better acquaintance with these new members was necessary to efficient church work, gave a reception on June 9 in honor of the new members, inviting the entire membership. The reception commitee introduced the young people and gave them a hearty welcome. The following program was then rendered: Piano, Miss Pauline Freer; recitation, Miss Mary Freer; whistling solo, Mr. Elmer Walters; violin solo, Mr. Louis Buckins; piano, Mr. Alfred Taylor. Refreshments were then served and a delightful evening was spent.

—A Luther League of forty-one members has been organized in St. Luke's Church, Toledo, Rev. G. A. Bierdemann, D. D., pastor. The League maintains a devotional meeting, studying, at present, the life of Christ.

WISCONSIN.

—The Luther League of the Church of the Epiphany, Milwaukee, Rev. K. Rubrecht, pastor, has reorganized under a new constitution. They hope to build up one of the strongest Leagues in Wisconsin. They have decided to hold two meetings a month, one a business-devotional meeting and the other a literary-social meeting. The following officers were elected: Rev. Keller G. Rubrecht, president; Mr. Paul Newbouer, vice president; Miss Mae Gall, secretary; Miss Ella Reinhardt, corresponding secretary; Mr. Henry A. Luedemann, treasurer. The League has thirty-eight members. It began with fifteen members.

IOWA

Central Iowa District—

—The seventh annual convention of the Central Iowa Luther League met at Eagle Grove, June 2 to 4. The convention was held in the Norwegian Lutheran Church, Rev. O. R. Sletten, pastor. The convention opened Tuesday evening. After the address of welcome by Rev. Sletten and the response by the president of the District League, Rev. N. J. Lohre, Rev. Eastvold preached from the text in Hebrew 11:23-24. Many helpful thoughts for League work were given. The morning session was given up to business after a half hour prayer service led by Mr. Olaf Midland. The extension committee reported two Leagues to be added, the Elims Luther League of Marshalltown and the Bethlehem Luther League of Slater.

The corresponding secretary reported ten Leagues represented. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Magnus Johnson, of Jewell; vice president, Rev. A. Shefreland, of Huxley; corresponding secretary, Alfred Lee, of Marshalltown; recording secretary, Godelia Highland, of Slater; treasurer, Nellie Mason, of Cambridge. After the business session Rev. Soevde read a paper on "William Loehe." Wednesday afternoon was devoted to the question box. Many helpful questions were discussed. Wednesday evening the president, Professor Lohre, gave an excellent talk on "Our Young People of Today." Miss Josephine Hagen gave an interesting talk on "Missions." Thursday forenoon Rev. Hohn opened the discussion, and it was carried on by many others. Thursday afternoon, the General Secretary, Rev. L. M. Kuhns, was present. He brought greetings from several Leagues. Anna Williams then read a paper on "Deaconess Work." At the concluding session Rev. O. A. Norem, of Sioux City, addressed the convention. His subject was "Of the Church, by the Church, for the Church."

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Luther League

Of America

Of the Church, By the Church, For the Church"

Official Call for the Eighth National Convention

Chicago, August 11th, 12th and 13th, 1908

In accordance with the cordial invitation extended at the Seventh National Convention at Canton, Ohio, the Eighth National Convention of The Luther League of America will be held in Chicago, Illinois. After conferring with the local committee, the Executive Committee has designated August 11, 12, 13, 1908, as the time for holding the convention.

REPRESENTATION.

Any society, of whatever name, connected with a Lutheran congregation or a Lutheran institution of learning, and District and State organizations whose admission shall have been recommended by the Committee on Credentials, are entitled to membership, with representation as follows: Each society admitted to membership shall be entitled to one delegate, each District League to three delegates, and each State or Territorial organization to ten delegates. Delegates to the Convention are expected and required to present properly certified credentials.

CREDENTIALS.

Credential blanks for delegates, whether from a State League, a District League, or a local society should be secured at once by State, District, and local officers from Rev. C. K. Hunton, Statistical Secretary, Salem, Va. All credentials should be filled out in duplicate, one part being sent to Rev. C. K. Hunton, Statistical Secretary, and the other part retained by the delegate for presentation to the Credential Committee at Chicago. Blank forms for credentials for delegates will be sent upon application to the Statistical Secretary, who will also furnish gratuitously the uniform statistical blanks of The Luther League of America.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The arrangement of the program is in charge of a sub-committee of the Executive Committee. As soon as possible announcement will be made relative to the program through THE REVIEW.

In an early number of THE REVIEW the Committee on Transportation will publish information regarding rates.

Particulars as to hotels and other local arrangements will be furnished in due season by the local convention committee.

The LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW will furnish official information each month in regard to the Convention, and after the Convention will publish a Convention Number containing full reports of the proceedings.

By direction of the Executive Committee,

LUTHER M. KUHNS,
General Secretary of the Luther League of America.

WM. C. STOEVER,
President of the Luther League of America.

For July Juniors

DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED BY C. ELVIN HAUPT, D. D., LANCASTER CITY, PA.

WHAT WE NEED FOR JUNIOR WORK:

A pleasant room of sufficient capacity.

A good committee of the main League to superintend.

Officers of the Junior League chosen by themselves.

Careful presentation of the topic.

Good singing. [See the League Hymnal.]

Pretty pictures.

Kind hearts and happy faces.

Active committees.

Variety of the work.

Prayer for the *guidance* of the Holy Spirit.

Reader! Will you be *with us* at the Convention in Chicago?

A PYRAMID.

I
GO
ASK
PRAY
LABOR

These letters can be set or built up on blocks or strips of cardboard, with the League colors. The letters also can be made of the same colors, and lessons can be drawn from them as they are handed up.

Children love pictures and greatly enjoy having the beautiful picture charts explained to them. These are found in many homes.

If we knew how great God is, none of us would take His name in vain for ten thousand dollars a word.

It is well to memorize as much as possible while we are young.

Let us ever keep pure true religion as the foremost object of the League.

By means of the Junior League meeting during the week, it may be the pastor can meet the Juniors and confer with them, as he cannot at Sunday school, if he must teach in another department or be on his way to another part of his charge.

Try not only to read the Topics, but to *discuss* them. This sets the young people to thinking, and starts thoughtful habits.

From all sides come words of commendation for the Junior League Topics by those who are using them. Everybody seems to rejoice that they have been provided. Every League that uses them will not only be the better for them, but, as they involve considerable expense to the publishers—the REVIEW—each patron will be a helper by enabling all to have and to enjoy them. The rates are very low. One copy (four numbers) for one year, 10 cents; fifty copies, one issue, $1; fifty copies (four issues), one year, $3; 100 copies, one issue, $2; 100 copies (four issues), one year, $6. They are not dated, and can be used in any order at any time. Address the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW in ordering, or send for a sample copy at any time.

The subjects treated in the fifth issue will be as follows:

THE NAME OF THE LORD.
SHEM, HAM, JAPHETH.
I. H. S.
THE GREAT PERSECUTIONS.
WHAT IS MY DUTY?
CHINA.
THE CHURCH ORGAN.
GOD'S HOLY DAYS.
ABRAHAM THE TRAVELER.
ALPHA AND OMEGA.
HOW CONSTANTINE BECAME A CHRISTIAN.
THE TEMPTER.
MADAGASCAR.

These subjects will all be treated. Writers from many places will prepare them. May many minds be enlightened by them!

Does every Junior have a badge and wear it?

It is hoped that the conventions of the year may consolidate the strength and help on the work of the Junior League in each congregation and school. Thus each locality will feel the benefit of the movement.

You can order your Junior Topics by number: 1, 2, 3, or 4. No. 5 is now preparing.

Have any of your Juniors ever planted a tree?

How do you bring back the straying ones?

Parkhurst Brothers

GLASS STAINERS

Memorial Windows

Monuments

156 Fifth Ave. New York